

Featuring
THE

BLACK HOOD

TOP-NOTCH

NO. 13

comics 10¢

MAR.



THE WIZARD
ROY...
WITH
THE SUPER-BOY!

W. C. C. C.



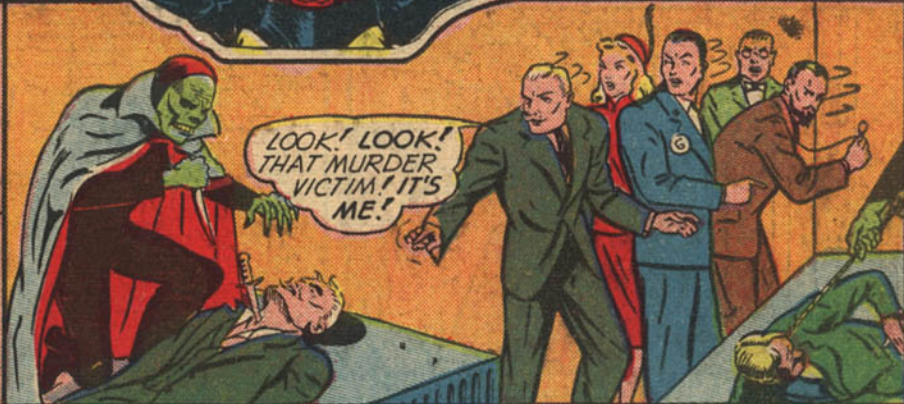
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THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY



OUR SCENE OPENS IN A WAX MUSEUM WHICH FEATURES THE MOST ATROCIOUS CRIMES OF THAT MASTER OF MURDER - THE SKULL! SUDDENLY THE AIR IS RENT BY THE HORROR-STRICKEN HOWL OF ONE OF THE SPECTATORS WHO SCREAMS HYSTERICALLY -



THAT'S A WAX FIGURE OF ME, I TELL YOU! THE SKULL MEANS TO KILL ME IN JUST THAT WAY!

GOOD LORD! HE'S RIGHT!

HOW... WHO...!



THE WAY TO THE POLICE STATION, QUICK!



PROTECT ME! PUT ME IN JAIL! THE SKULL IS AFTER ME! HE JUST SENT ME A MESSAGE OF DEATH!

YOU'RE CRAZY! THE SKULL'S SAFE IN JAIL! AND ANYWAY, WHY WOULD HE WANT TO KILL YOU!



WHY! GOOD LORD! DON'T YOU KNOW ME. I'M JACK CARTER THE NEWSPAPER EDITOR! IT WAS MY PAPER THAT HAD THOSE SCORCHING EDITORIALS DAY AFTER DAY ABOUT THE SCUM OF CRIMELAND - THE SKULL, AND URGED HIS QUICK EXECUTION WITHOUT TRIAL WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED... NOW, HE MUST HAVE ESCAPED!







I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DONE IT, CHIEF, BUT I SAW IT WITH ME' OWN EYES... A WAX FIGURE OF HIMSELF THERE, FOR I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG!

THE WHOLE THING SOUNDS LOONY!



WHAT IS THIS! A GAG, MC GINTY!

SAINTS ALIVE! NOW THEY'RE ALL GONE!



CARTER SAID THE WAX FIGURES AT THE MUSEUM SHOWED HE WAS GOING TO BE MURDERED IN HIS OWN HOME! LET'S GO, CHIEF!

YES! THE SKULL IS EGOMANIAC ENOUGH TO DO EXACTLY AS HE SAYS!



AT THE CARTER HOME.

GREAT LORD! ...IT'S THE WAX FIGURE OF THE SKULL... BUT THAT CORPSE IS REAL ENOUGH!

THE DEVILISH CUNNING OF THE FIEND! HE SAID HE'D KILL HIM THAT WAY, AND HE LEFT THE DUMMY AROUND TO PROVE IT!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN A NEWSPAPER OFFICE

I WON'T HAVE YOU AND RIP FIGHTING OVER WHO SHOULD TAKE ME HOME, JOE! YOU BOTH CAN!

NOT A CHANCE! I GOT THINGS TO TALK WITH YOU BARBARA... IN PRIVATE!

THREE ISN'T PRIVATE, JOE!



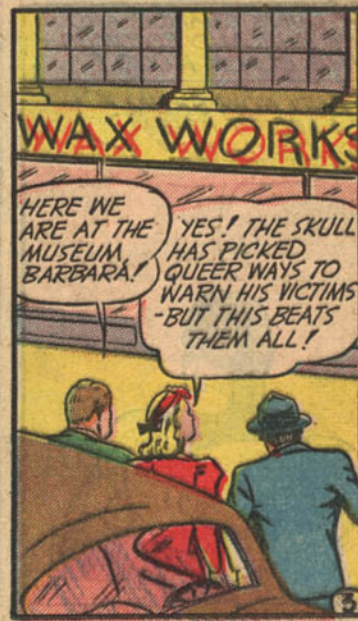
NOW LOOK! I DON'T WANNA GET TOUGH, BUT I'M TAKIN' HER HOME... ALONE... -SEE!

BARBARA! WAIT A MINUTE!

NO! I DON'T SEE!



I JUST GOT A FLASH! THE SKULL'S LOOSE. HE MURDERED CARTER AFTER TIPPING OFF HIS CRIME IN THE WAX WORKS MUSEUM! GO DOWN TO THE MUSEUM AND GET SOME PICTURES!



WAX WORKS

HERE WE ARE AT THE MUSEUM, BARBARA!

YES! THE SKULL HAS PICKED QUEER WAYS TO WARN HIS VICTIMS - BUT THIS BEATS THEM ALL!

I'M A REPORTER! WILL YOU PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAX DISPLAY OF THE SKULL KILLING, MR. CARTER!



THIS WAY!... GOSH I DON'T KNOW HOW IT EVER GOT IN HERE!

THE SKULL MEANS TO ROB AND KILL BARCLAY! I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!

SO THE SKULL WARNS THE BLACK HOOD OF DEATH IF HE INTERFERES!



KIP JOE! LOOK! THERE'S ANOTHER DISPLAY IN ITS PLACE... THAT'S THE BLACK HOOD... AND THAT OTHER FIGURE! IT'S THE FAMOUS JEWEL COLLECTOR, GEORGE BARCLAY!



WHILE BARBARA'S BUSY PHONING AND JOE'S BUSY WATCHING HER, I'LL SLIP AWAY...!



HELLO! HELLO! MC GINTY!

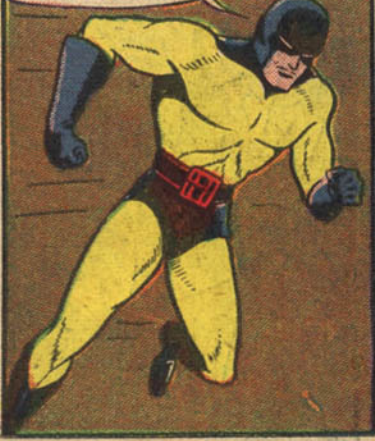
QUICK CHANGE AND KIP BURLAND BECOMES - THE BLACK HOOD!

AND NOW SKULL! I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!



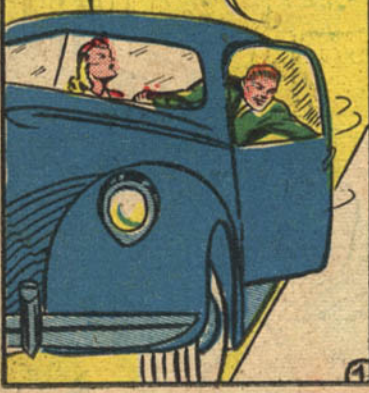
OFF INTO THE DARKNESS, STREAKS THE FIGURE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE!

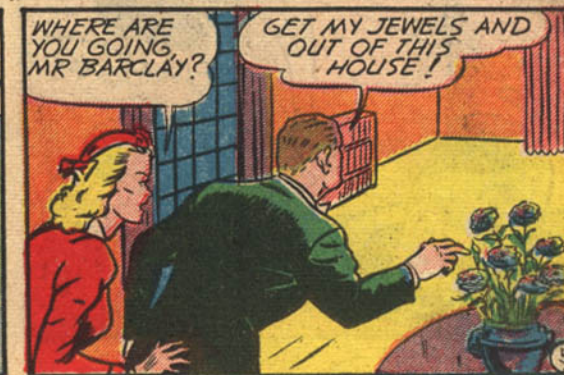
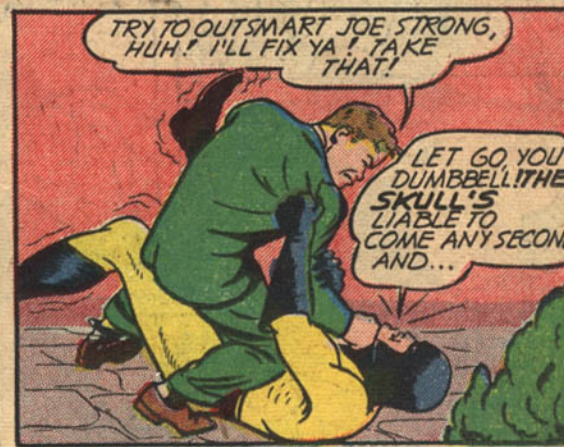
I'LL BE AT THE BARCLAY HOUSE WAITING FOR YOU, SKULL!



HURRY, JOE! WE'RE GOING TO BARCLAY'S NOW... WHY WHERE'S KIP!

PROBABLY HALF WAY TO THE MOON BY NOW. HE HEARD THE WORD 'MURDER' - AND HE AIN'T A VERY BRAVE GUY!





AS BARCLAY OPENS HIS SAFE--

BANG!

ARRHH!

HEH, HEH! I BEAT YOU TO YOUR JEWELS, MR. BARCLAY! VERY CLEVER PLANTING THAT REVOLVER THERE, WASN'T IT! THE SKULL ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISE!

YOU... HELP!

I HEARD A SHOT! THE SKULL MUST'VE SNEAKED PAST!... AND ALL BECAUSE OF THIS DOPE!

YOU HAVE ANOTHER PROMISE TO KEEP SKULL! KILLING THE BLACK HOOD!

YES! YOU BLASTED MEDDLER! AND I SHALL, TOO, RIGHT NOW!

NOT THAT WAY, YOU WON'T!

YOU ALWAYS WERE A SUCKER FOR THIS TRICK, SKULL!

OOMP!

I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES WITH YOU THIS TIME!

UGH!



KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF YOU, EH? I'LL SEE TO IT YOU NEVER GET IT BACK!

HEY! YOU! STOP!

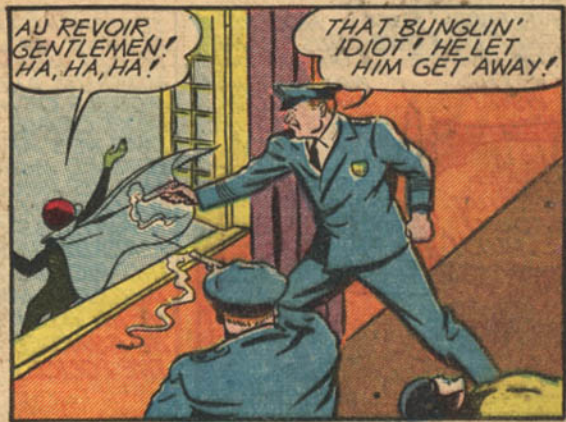


SKULL YOU'VE REALLY GOT ME SORE NOW! AND IT'S GONNA BE TOO BAD FOR YOU!

DROP THAT, YOU FOOL!



SURE I WILL... ON YOUR HEAD!... OOPS... MISSED!



AU REVOIR GENTLEMEN! HA, HA, HA!

THAT BUNGLIN' IDIOT! HE LET HIM GET AWAY!



OWW! MY HEAD! WH... WHAT HAPPENED?

PLENTY! BARCLAY'S BEEN MURDERED BY THE SKULL - BEFORE YOU COULD DO IT! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

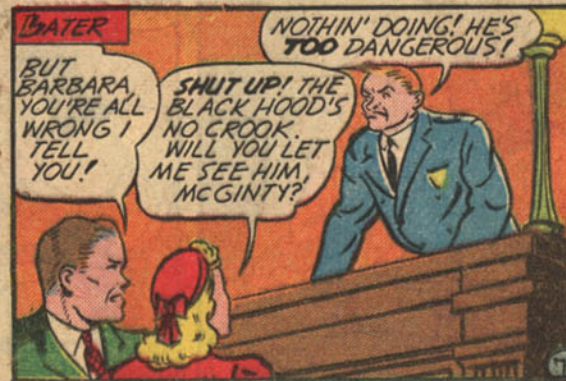
I TOLD YOU I'D GET YOU, DIDN'T I, HOOD?



THE BLACK HOOD IS MARCHED OFF TO JAIL.

THAT'S ONE LESS CROOK TO CATCH!

YEAH! AND THE SKULL GOES NEXT!



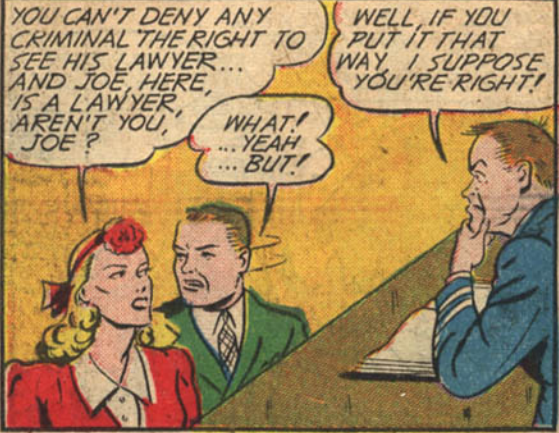
LATER

BUT BARBARA YOU'RE ALL WRONG I TELL YOU!

NOTHIN' DOING! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS!

SHUT UP! THE BLACK HOOD'S NO CROOK. WILL YOU LET ME SEE HIM, MCGINTY?

YOU CAN'T DENY ANY CRIMINAL THE RIGHT TO SEE HIS LAWYER... AND JOE, HERE, IS A LAWYER, AREN'T YOU, JOE?



WHAT! ... YEAH ... BUT!

WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT!

FOLLER ME ... 'N DON'T STAY TOO LONG!

HEY.. WHAT.. ME DEFEND THE HOOD!

SHUT UP! EVERYTIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH, I FEEL LIKE PUTTING MY FOOT IN IT!



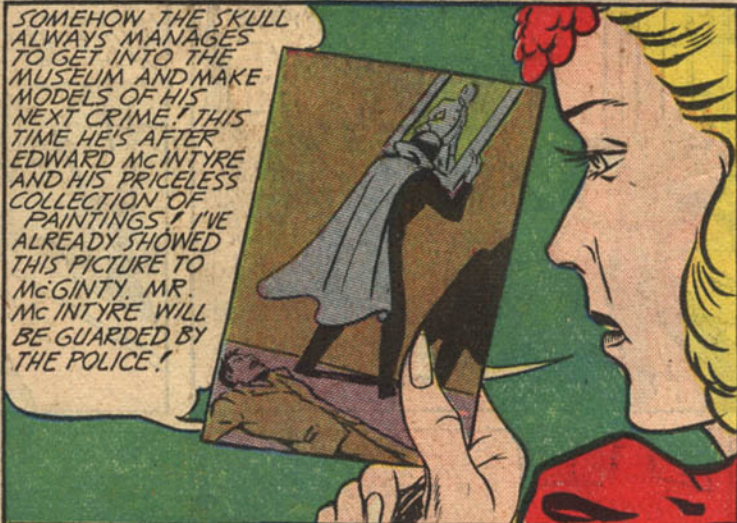
WELL, WELL! TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR OF THIS VISIT!

ME, A LAWYER FOR THAT CROOK! ... NUTS!



HOOD! JUST CAME FROM THE WAX MUSEUM! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PICTURE I TOOK!

SOMEHOW THE SKULL ALWAYS MANAGES TO GET INTO THE MUSEUM AND MAKE MODELS OF HIS NEXT CRIME! THIS TIME HE'S AFTER EDWARD MCINTYRE AND HIS PRICELESS COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS! I'VE ALREADY SHOWED THIS PICTURE TO MCGINTY. MR. MCINTYRE WILL BE GUARDED BY THE POLICE!



THAT'S QUITE A BATCH OF PICTURES YOU SNAPPED! TAKE THEM ALL IN THE MUSEUM, I SUPPOSE?

WHY YES! HERE LOOK AT THEM!



WHAT IN...! THIS PICTURE YOU TOOK OF THE MUSEUM GUARD! HIS HAT'S COVERING MOST OF HIS FACE, BUT LOOK CLOSE... AT THE CHIN!

GREAT HEAVENS! IT...IT'S THE SKULL!



I'M GOING RIGHT AFTER HIM-MY-SELF, THIS TIME!

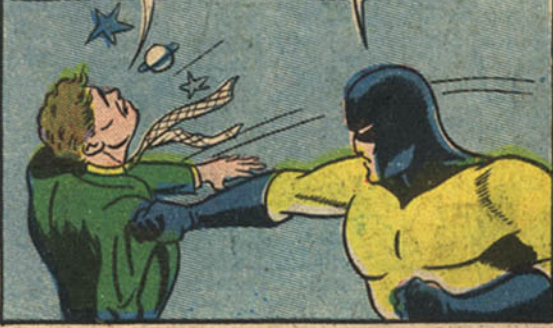
WHOA! YOU'RE MY LAWYER, AREN'T YOU?

WAIT FOR ME BARBARA!



YEAH... WHADDA YA WANNA KNOW! MAKE IT SNAPPY ... OOF!

IS THIS SNAPPY ENOUGH?



THE BLACK HOOD EMERGES, DISGUISED IN JOE'S CLOTHING.

OKAY! LET'S GO BARBARA!

SO LONG, SARGEY! I'LL BRING YOU THE SKULL AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

HAW, HAW! ALWAYS GAGGIN'! WELL, SO LONG, KIDS!



ER... GOTTA RUN ALONG! SEE YOU LATER!

HMMPH! SORE BECAUSE I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU ABOUT THE HOOD BEING A CROOK.



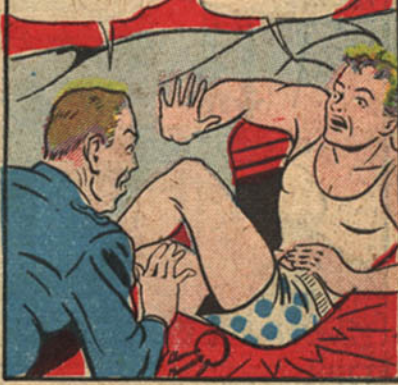
BACK IN THE CELL!

SO! THE HOOD'S SNOOZING WITHOUT HIS MASK! I'D LIKE TO GET A SQUINT AT THAT GUY!



HEY! YOU... YOU'RE THE LAWYER... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE!

WH... WHERE AM I!... THE HOOD KNOCKED ME COLD!... HE ESCAPED!



MEANWHILE BARBARA ARRIVES AT THE MUSEUM.

THIS PLACE IS CLOSED! I'LL GET IN THROUGH THIS WINDOW!



UGH! IT'S CREEPY. EVERYWHERE I TURN I SEE THE SKULL!



BARBARA SEARCHES THE CELLAR!



WHAT'S THAT! A FIGURE LYING THERE! HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S DEAD!

IT'S THE MUSEUM GUARD!
THE SKULL DID IT. THAT'S HOW
HE WAS ABLE TO GAIN
ENTRANCE HERE WHEN -
EVER HE PLEASD!



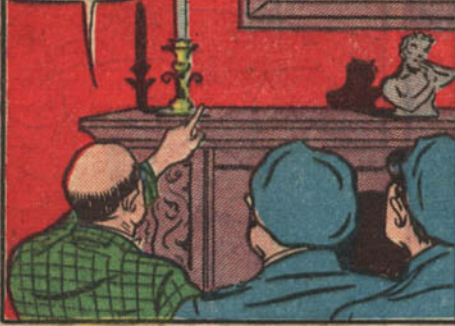
MEANWHILE, AT THE MCINTYRE HOME.

THE SKULL IS AN INHUMAN
FIEND! HE'S CARRIED OUT
HIS THREATS BEFORE, AND
HE WILL NOW! WH... WHAT
SHALL I DO?

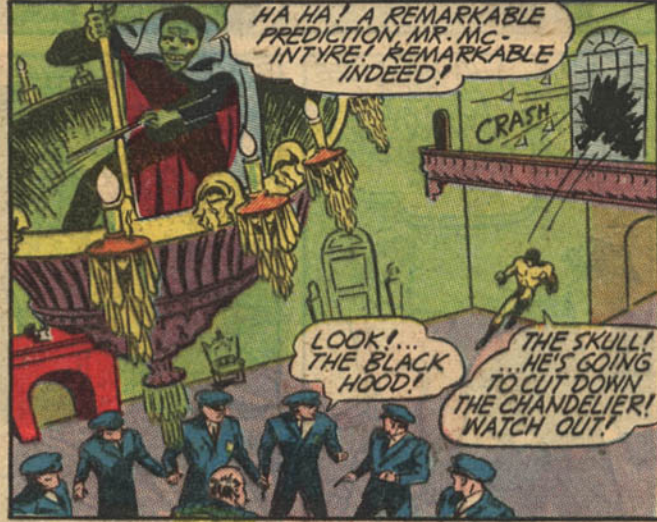
JUST RELAX, MR. MC-
INTYRE! I TELL YA
THERE AIN'T A THING
TO WORRY ABOUT! A
WORM COULDN'T GET
THROUGH MY MEN!



IT'S THAT PICTURE
HE WANTS. MY
MOST PRICELESS
POSSESSION! I'LL
DIE BEFORE I LET
IT OUT OF MY
HANDS!



HA HA! A REMARKABLE
PREDICTION, MR. MC-
INTYRE! REMARKABLE
INDEED!



LOOK!...
THE BLACK
HOOD!

THE SKULL!
HE'S GOING
TO CUT DOWN
THE CHANDELIER!
WATCH OUT!

A HERCULEAN LEAP AND THE
HOOD'S HURTLING FRAME PER-
FORMS AN INCREDIBLE FEAT!



ONE SIDE,
BOYS!

THE
HOOD SHAN'T
KEEP
ME FROM
TAKING
THE
PICTURE
ANYWAY!



THE SKULL'S
CLEVERNESS
HAS WON OUT
AGAIN HA,
HA, HA!



BUT THE BLACK HOOD IS NOT TO BE SHAKEN OFF!

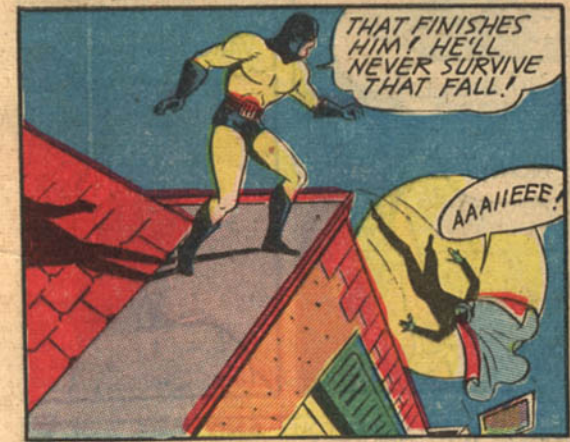


SKULL, YOU'VE COMMITTED YOUR LAST CRIME!

BLAST YOU!... ONLY YOU! ALWAYS STANDING IN THE WAY OF MY PLANS! ...DROP... DIE... DIE!

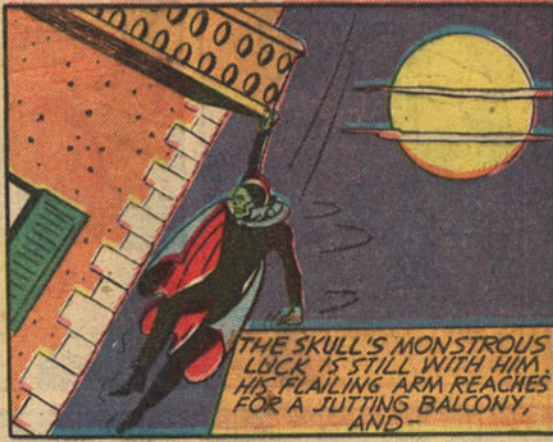


AAAAHHH!



THAT FINISHES HIM! HE'LL NEVER SURVIVE THAT FALL!

AAAAIEEEEE!



THE SKULL'S MONSTROUS LUCK IS STILL WITH HIM. HIS FLAILING ARM REACHES FOR A JUTTING BALCONY, AND—



HE'S ESCAPED AGAIN! NOTHING SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO HARM THAT DEVIL!



BUT I'LL BRING AN END TO HIS CAREER OF CRIME IF I HAVE TO PURSUE HIM TO THE OTHER END OF THE WORLD!



I'M PITCHING NOW, SKULL! CATCH!

WHOOSH!



BRINGING EVERY OUNCE OF HIS STRENGTH INTO PLAY, THE BLACK HOOD LANDS A DEVASTATING BLOW!

STRIKE TWO AND YOU'RE OUT!



AND AS THE SKULL CRASHES INTO A WAX DISPLAY, A WAX IMAGE OF HIMSELF TOPPLES UPON HIM!



THE DAGGER CLENCHED IN ITS HAND BURY'S ITSELF INTO THE SKULL'S THROAT.



GREAT SCOT! LOOKS LIKE THE SKULL'S A GONER! STABBED BY HIS OWN WAX IMAGE!

IT ALMOST SEEMS AS THOUGH SOME HIGHER POWER WILLED THAT HE SEAL HIS OWN FATE!



AT THAT MOMENT-

THERE HE IS! JUST LIKE I TOLD YA!... SWIPE MY CLOTHES WILL YA!... JUST LEMME LAY MY HANDS ON YOU!

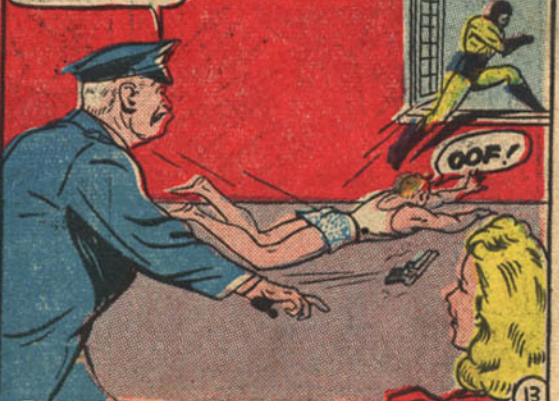
LOOKS LIKE YOUR BOY FRIEND'S A LITTLE SORE, BARBARA!

WHY JOE!...



AHH! WHAT'S THE USE OF SHOOTIN' AT HIM! WE NEVER HIT HIM, ANYWAY!

HA, HA! BET YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR VARSITY LETTER TACKLING THAT WAY, JOE!



THE SKULL IS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL.

THE SKULL'S NOT DEAD YET. BUT ONLY A MIRACLE CAN SAVE HIM!

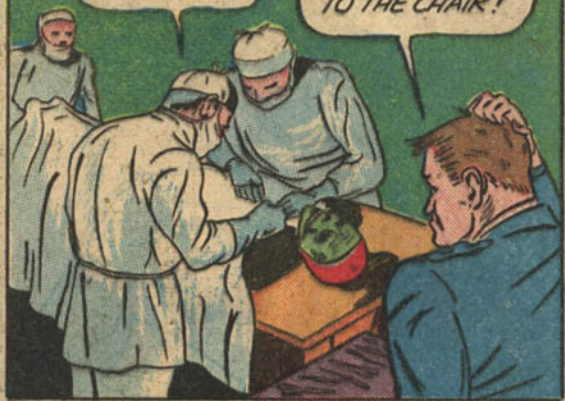
DON'T TRY TOO HARD FOR THE MIRACLE, DOC!



LATER-

WELL IT'S DONE! I NEVER THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE-BUT HE'LL LIVE!

I DON'T GET IT! WORKIN' SO HARD TO BRING A GUY BACK TO LIFE SO WE CAN SEND HIM TO THE CHAIR!



NEXT DAY!

HELLO BOYS!

HIYA BABS! HOW'S ABOUT GRABBIN' SOME GRUB WITH ME!



WAIT A MINUTE. YOU PROMISED ME THIS DATE! REMEMBER!

DA GAZETTE

LOOK PUNK! YOU'RE STARTIN' TO ITCH ME! I DON'T WANTA TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY STRENGTH SO SCRAM!

YOU TALK A GOOD FIGHT BUT THIS DATE'S STILL MINE!



HEY! WATCH OUT YA STUPID LOOKIN'...!

OOPS!



THAT SETTLES THAT! YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T GO INTO A RESTAURANT WITH MUD ALL OVER YOU!

WELL I'LL BE...!



FUN, EXCITEMENT, THRILLS, ACTION! YOU'LL FIND THEM ALL-AND MORE IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS! A DIMES WORTH OF THE BEST READING ENTERTAINMENT YOU'LL EVER LAY YOUR EYES ON



THE WIZARD

with ROY THE SUPER-BOY

by Camy + Shorten

A CITY STREET IN THE SLUMS IS A MASS OF SEETHING EXCITEMENT AS A POLICE CORDON SURROUNDING A TENEMENT SHOOT IT OUT WITH A MOB OF TRAPPED GANGSTERS!

BACK EVERYBODY!

JUST GOT ANOTHER COPPER, BUGS!

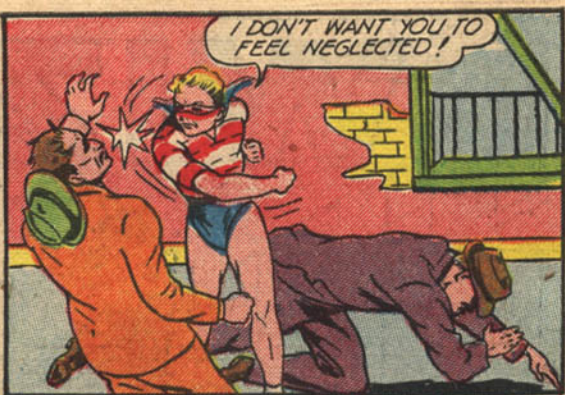
GOOD! KEEP SHOOTIN'

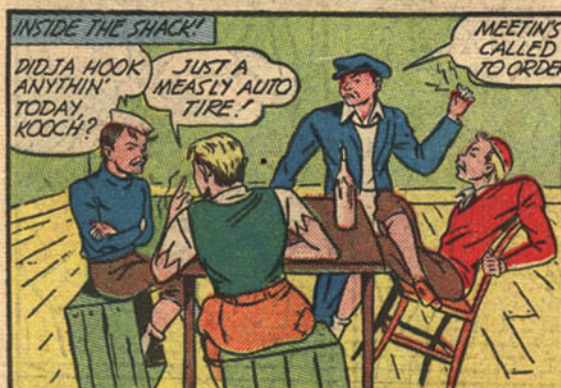
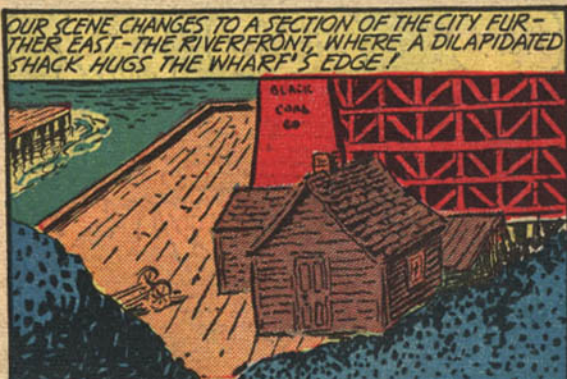
THE FLAT FOOT THAT CAN TAKE BUGS MALONE ALIVE, AIN'T LIVIN'! WE'LL PUT THE HEAT ON PLENTY OF 'EM BEFORE THEY GET US!

SUDDENLY, TWO FIGURES CATAPULT THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS THE BESIEGED HOUSE - THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPERBOY!

HELLO BOYS! THE ELEVATOR WASN'T WORKING!

NICE BOOTING, ROY!







I THINK I SAW BUGS DUCK INTO THAT SHACK! I'LL SNOOP AROUND!



HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?

LOOK GANG! A DAME!

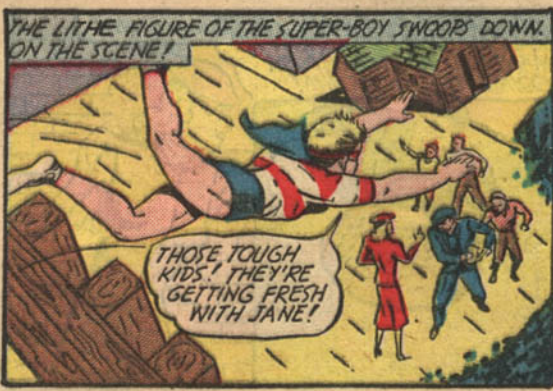
WHAT'S SHE DOIN' AROUND HERE!



HERE! STOP!

GIMME DAT BAG!

NICE GOIN' MUTT!



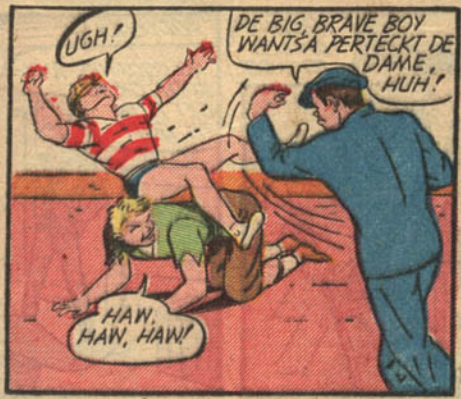
THE LITHE FIGURE OF THE SUPER-BOY SWOOPS DOWN ON THE SCENE!

THOSE TOUGH KIDS! THEY'RE GETTING FRESH WITH JANE!



HEY KIDS! GIT A LOAD O' DAT! MUST BE A MOVIN' PITCHER SISSY!

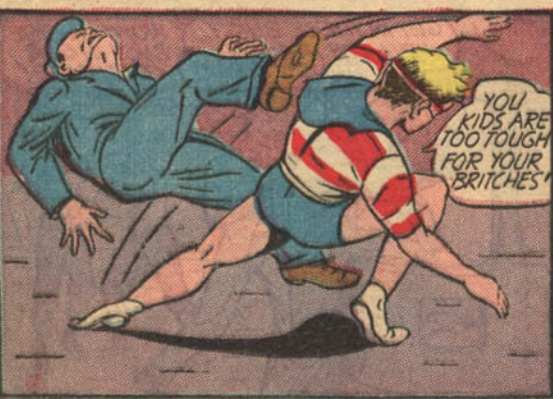
HAW HAW! LET'S GIVE 'IM DE WOIKS!



UGH!

DE BIG, BRAVE BOY WANTSA PERTECKT DE DAME, HUH!

HAW, HAW, HAW!

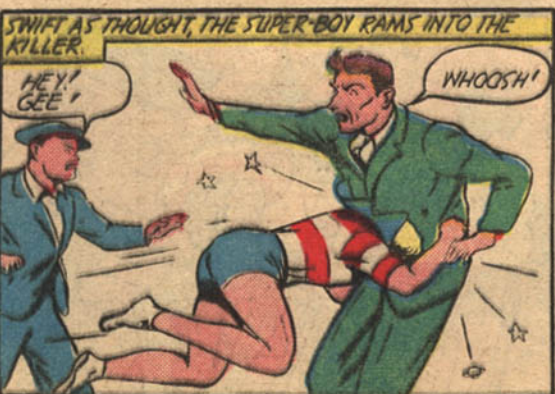


YOU KIDS ARE TOO TOUGH FOR YOUR BRITCHES!

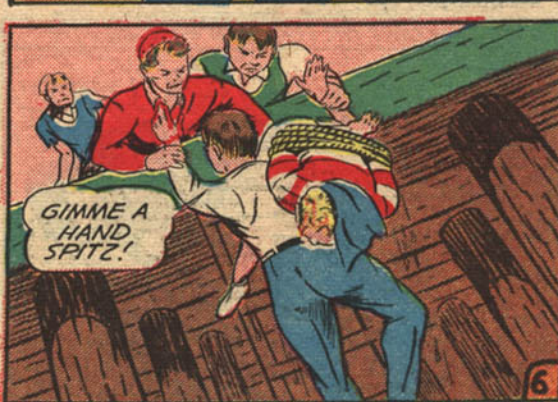
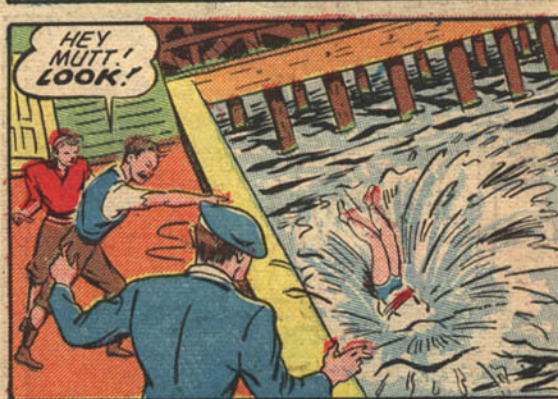


SO I THINK I'LL SOFTEN YOU UP A LITTLE!

CLUNK



BEFORE ROY CAN RECOVER FROM THE SURPRISE ATTACK -





SAY! WHY'D YOU WANTA SAVE ME?... YOU KIDS AREN'T AS 'BAD AS YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK!

NUTS!



OKAY! WE DID YA A FAVOR, DIDN'T WE?... YA CAN PAY US BACK!... JUST DON'T SQUEAL ON OUR PAL BUGS, TO THE COPS!

WELL... I GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE... BUT BUGS ISN'T YOUR PAL!



ROY IMMEDIATELY MAKES FOR THE WIZARD'S PRIVATE GYM.

HELLO, ROY! I WAS JUST GOING OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU!

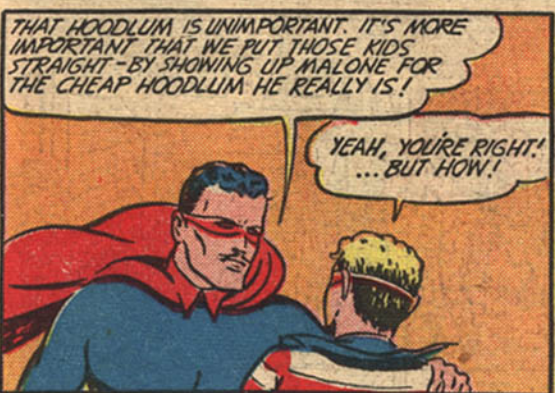
HIYA WIZARD!



ROY TELLS THE WIZARD THE WHOLE STORY!

AND SO WIZARD, I GAVE THEM MY WORD OF HONOR NOT TO TURN BUGS OVER TO THE POLICE!

HMMM! IT'S JUST AS WELL FOR THE TIME BEING, ANYWAY!



THAT HOODLUM IS UNIMPORTANT. IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE PUT THOSE KIDS STRAIGHT-BY SHOWING UP MALONE FOR THE CHEAP HOODLUM HE REALLY IS!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! ... BUT HOW!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE KIDS ARE ABOUT TO PUT THEIR PLANS FOR HELPING BUGS, INTO EFFECT!



SEEN ANY OF BUGS' MOB AROUND, YET?

NO! THEY'RE IN HIDING SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE! ...THEY'LL HAVE TO COME OUT, SOMETIME!



HEY, YOU KIDS! CUT THAT OUT!

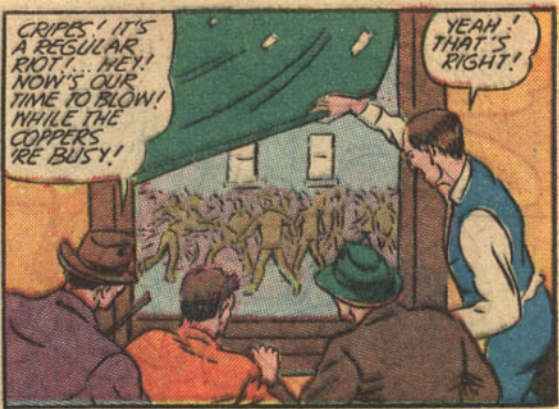
PASTA FAZOOLE! MY POOSHA-CART!



WHILE IN A ROOM, DIRECTLY ABOVE-

WE CAN'T DUCK THIS JOINT! THE STREETS'RE SWARMIN WITH FLATFEET!

HEY, LOOK! SOME KIDS 'RE STARTIN' A FIGHT!

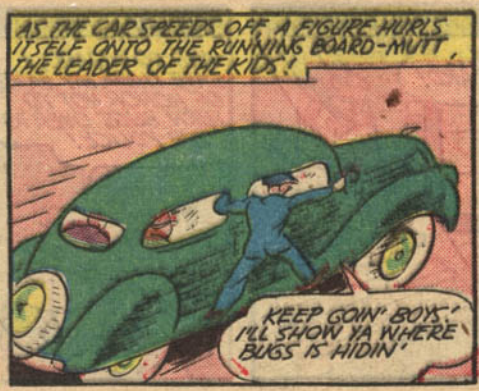


CRIPES! IT'S A REGULAR RIOT!... HEY! NOW'S OUR TIME TO BLOW! WHILE THE COPPERS'RE BUSY!

YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!



MALONE'S MOB RUSHES OUT A SIDE ENTRANCE INTO A WAITING CAR.



AS THE CAR SPEEDS OFF A FIGURE HURLS ITSELF ONTO THE RUNNING BOARD-MUTT, THE LEADER OF THE KIDS!

KEEP GOIN' BOYS! I'LL SHOW YA WHERE BUGS IS HIDIN'!



OKAY! HERE WE ARE!



SEE! I TOLD YA, I'D BRING 'EM, DIDN'T I?

YEAH, SURE!... OKAY BOYS, LET'S BLOW!



WHERE'LL WE HEAD FOR, BUGS-THE BORDER?

SURE!... YOU GUYS GO FIRST AND SEE IF THE COAST IS CLEAR!



BUGS!!! YA SHOT 'IM IN TH' BACK! YOUR PAL!

SHUT UP! I AIN'T SPLITTIN' THIS DOUGH WITH ANYBODY!

GOOH!



GIT OVER THERE WID TH' REST OF 'EM!... I'M GIVIN' IT TO ALL OF YOU!

COOF!

JANE, WHO IS STILL FROWNING ABOUT ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BUGS, IS ABOUT TO ENTER THE CLUB ROOM SHACK!



JANE RUNS INTO THE KIDS WHO RETURN AT THAT MOMENT!



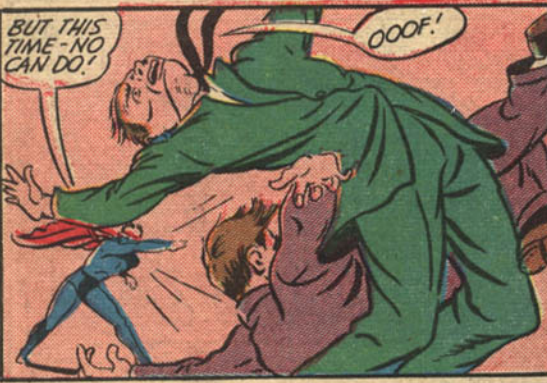


JUST AS YOU SAY, ROY

THESE GUYS AREN'T RATS!... THEY'RE MICE!



OH, OH! THERE GOES BUGS AGAIN!... JUST A HABIT OF HIS, RUNNING OUT WHENEVER THERE'S TROUBLE!



BUT THIS TIME - NO CAN DO!

OOOF!



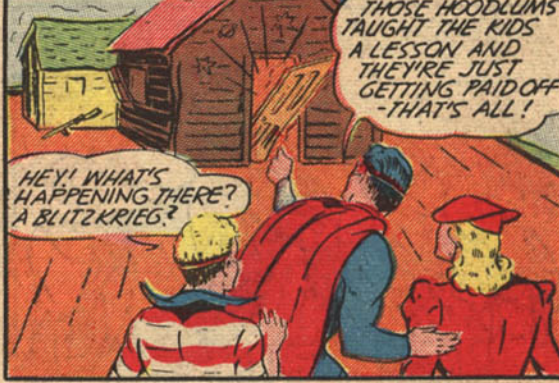
THERE YOU ARE, KIDS!... TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR HEROES!

DON'T HIT US NO MORE! WE GIVE UP!



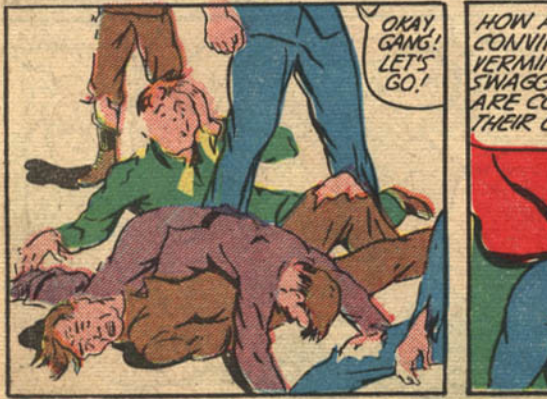
LOOK WIZARD!... WE GOT A LITTLE BUSINESS TO KINDA FINISH OFF... WILL YA LEAVE US ALONE FER A FEW MINUTES WITH THESE MUGS!

ER... SURE!

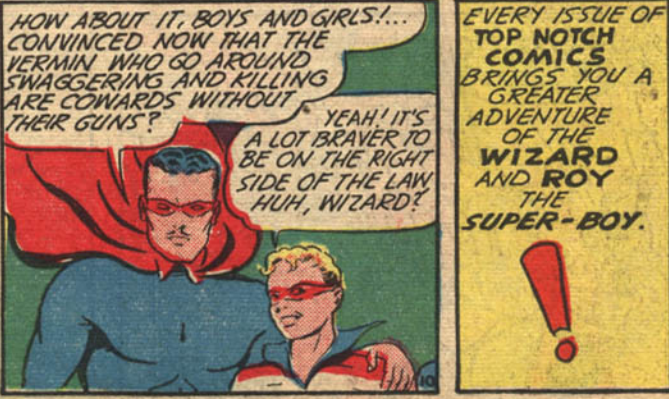


THOSE HOODLUMS TAUGHT THE KIDS A LESSON AND THEY'RE JUST GETTING PAID OFF - THAT'S ALL!

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE? A BLITZKRIEG?



OKAY GANG! LET'S GO!



HOW ABOUT IT, BOYS AND GIRLS!... CONVINCED NOW THAT THE VERMIN WHO GO AROUND SWAGGERING AND KILLING ARE COWARDS WITHOUT THEIR GUNS?

YEAH! IT'S A LOT BRAVER TO BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW HUH, WIZARD?

EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS BRINGS YOU A GREATER ADVENTURE OF THE WIZARD AND ROY THE SUPER-BOY.



Fran Frazer



IN SERBIA, THE POWDER KEG OF THE BALKANS AND A NEST OF POLITICAL INTRIGUE, THE KING IS SET UPON ONE NIGHT WHILE HE IS IN BED!



ALL RIGHT! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! YOU CAN TAKE HIS PLACE NOW!

HE'S A PERFECT DOUBLE! HE'LL NEVER BE RECOGNIZED!



NEXT DAY, HAL DAVIS TRIES TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH THE KING!

GIVE A GUY A BREAK, WILL YA? LEMME THROUGH!

NO!



FRAN FRAZER COMES ALONG...

YOU MAY PASS!



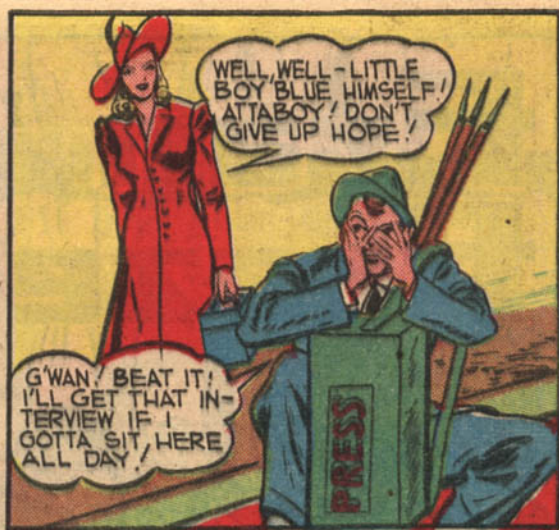
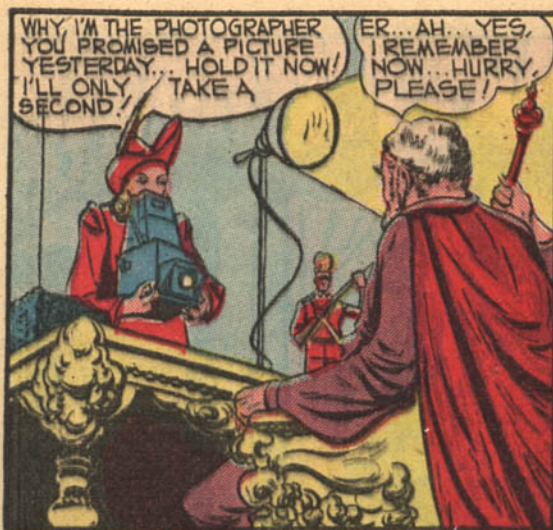
WELL, I'LL BE! HOW IN...?

YOU DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT PEOPLE, HAL! READ MY STORY IN TOMORROW'S PAPER! TOODLEOO!



MISS FRAN FRAZER, YOUR MAJESTY

WHO IS SHE! I DON'T...



FRAN STARTS TO RIFLE THE DESK FURIOUSLY WHILE HAL KEEPS WATCH



DUCK, FRAN, THE KINGS COMING



WHY DO I LET YOU GET ME INTO SUCH SCRAPES? IF WE GET CAUGHT, WE'LL BE SHOT!

SHH! HE'S CALLING SOMEONE! I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER THE DIAL CLICKS!



STOP YOWLING SO MUCH, DO AS I SAY! CALL BACK THE NUMBER AND TRY TO SOUND LIKE THE KING...

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! 10 CLICKS... 3 CLICKS... 7 CLICKS... THATS RIGHT! HUH!

HAL'S CALL REACHES A BOAT



WE NEED YOUR COUNTRY TO JOIN UP WITH OUR AXIS. YOUR DOUBLE SHALL SEE THAT IT DOES!

THE PHONES RINGING!



HELLO, HELLO! WHAT YOU HAFF FORGOTTEN THE DIRECTIONS! DUNDER HEAD! I WILL REPEAT. LISTEN CAREFULLY



HAFF YOU GOT IT NOW? SAY! YOUR VOICE! IT SOUNDS DIFFERENT

ER... AH... A COLD... GULD, YES! THATS IT!

NICE WORK HAL!



AND NOW... DUNDER UND BLITZEN! A COLD! HE DID NOT HAFF A COLD WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM THE FIRST TIME!



LATER

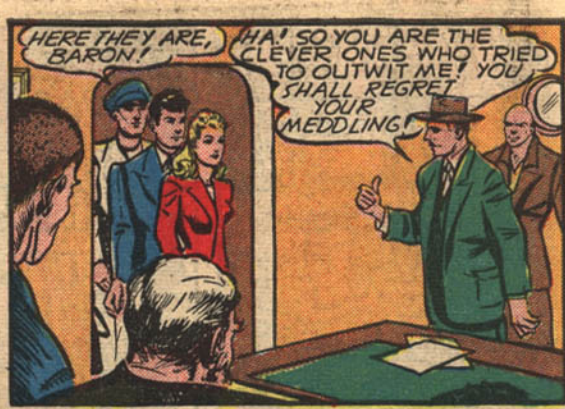
THERE'S THE BOAT JUST LIKE THAT KRAUT TOLD US, FRAN! WHAT NOW?

WERE GOING ABOARD!



SAY! THINGS ARE A LITTLE TOO QUIET! IT SCARES ME

ME TOO! LETS PROWL AROUND! AND FOR GRIEFS SAKE, DONT STAMP THOSE BROGANS AROUND THAT WAY.



KEITH KORNELL

WEST POINTER

CADETS! YOUR COUNTRY CALLS FOR YOUR AID IN THIS NATIONAL EMERGENCY!



THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WEST POINT ACADEMY MAKES A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT!

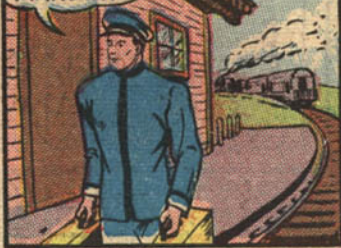
H. ZURAW

YOU UPPERCLASSMEN ARE TO SERVE AS OFFICERS IN THE DRAFT — TEMPORARILY. THE OFFICE WILL ASSIGN YOU YOUR CAMP. GOOD LUCK!



KEITH ARRIVES AT HIS ASSIGNED CAMP.

NOW, I'M TO REPORT TO THE CAMP COMMANDER.



KEITH KORNELL, VERY WELL! I'LL ASSIGN YOU TO YOUR PLATOON!



MEN, THIS IS LIEUTENANT KORNELL. HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF YOU!



WILL YA GET A LOAD O' THE PANTY-WAIST WHO'S GONNA GIVE US ORDERS, HAPPY? I'M GONNA GIVE HIM THE WORKS!



YEAH, HUTCH! THEY MUST THINK THIS IS A KINDERGARTEN!



BETH DRILLS HIS PLATOON

COMPANY — LEFT..FACE!

HEY HUTCH! YOU'RE TURNIN' RIGHT!



GUESS I DIDN'T HEAR YA, LIEUTENANT. YOUR VOICE IS KINDA SQUEAKY!

HAW. HAW!



OWW!

OOOPS... DID IT AGAIN!



YA DID THAT ON PURPOSE, YA...

OOOF!



TOUGH GUY, HUH?



THERE'S ONLY ONE TOUGH GUY IN THIS CAMP! ME — BILL HUTCH!

UGH!



HERE! BREAK IT UP!

WELL, HE STARTED IT!



THAT GUY, HUTCH, IS TRYING TO GET MY GOAT. I CAN'T START OUT BY HAVING TO APPEAL TO MY SUPERIOR TO KEEP DISCIPLINE! I'VE GOT TO HANDLE THIS MYSELF!



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN FOR YOUR PLATOON, SIR!

I'LL READ IT TO THEM AT ONCE!

ALL LEAVES TONIGHT ARE CANCELLED! THE ROAD HAS BEEN MADE DANGEROUS BY A LANDSLIDE!



THAT NIGHT! IF THAT NEW LOOEY THINKS HE'S KEEPIN' ME FROM GOIN' INTO TOWN HE'S NUTS! COMIN' WITH ME, HAPPY?



GEE! BUT WE'RE LIABLE TO GET IN DUTCH!

AH, NUTS! C'MON! IT'LL BE THE LOOEY'S FUNERAL, NOT OURS.... S'LONG, CHUMPS!



STEPPED OUT TO TOWN IS WHAT THEY DID! DELIBERATELY DISOBEYED MY ORDER!... WELL, I'M GOING AFTER THEM AND GIVE THEM SOME WEST POINT DISCIPLINE!

LATER, KEITH INSPECTS, AFTER CALL TO QUARTERS!

EVERYBODY PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR?



WHY.... ER.....

WHERE ARE HUTCH AND MALONE?



WELL.... ER.... YOU SEE... ER..... THAT IS.. THEY MUSTA JUST STEPPED OUT FOR A MINUTE!



HUTCH! LOOK! THE REPORT WAS RIGHT! THE ROAD'S CLOGGED UP! WE CAN'T GET PAST!

SO WE GO OVER IT, THAT'S ALL!



GEE! IT'S RISKY, HUTCH!

AH, C'MON! DONT BE YELLA!





HELP!
HELP!

THAT'S PRIVATE
MALONE'S VOICE!

LOOK! HUTCH'S DOWN
THERE HANGIN'
ON A VINE!

YES! AND HE'S
OUT COLD, TOO!
QUICK, TAKE OFF
YOUR LEGGINGS!

NEVER MIND THE QUESTIONS. JUST
DO AS I SAY. NOW, I'LL
DOUBLE THEM UP!

Y...YES,
SIR!

NOW, HEIST
ME DOWN!!
EASY DOES IT
AND NO SLIPS!

MALONE WON'T BE ABLE TO
PULL US BOTH UP! I'VE GOT
TO MAKE HUTCH COME TO....
COME ON, SNAP OUT OF IT!

OOO..WH..WHO?
WHERE...?

WELL, THAT DID IT!
ONE UP AND ONE TO
GO! HEY, THIS VINE,
IT...IT'S...

IT'S BREAKING!
MALONE! HUTCH!
HURRY WITH
THOSE LEG-
GINGS!

WHEW... JUST
IN TIME. ANOTHER
SECOND, AND I'D
HAVE BEEN
AN EX-LIEU-
TENANT!

GOSH...!...!... ALL RIGHT.....BUT FIRST, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.' I'M GOING TO NEED A LOT OF ROOM FOR WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!



OKAY!' THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH! I STARTED OUT TO DO SOMETHING AND I'M GOING TO DO IT!

WHAT IN... BUT!



YOU FIRST, HUTCH!' SO YOU'RE TOUGH, EH?

OOO!



HERE'S HOW WE SOFTEN YOU HARDBOILED EGGS BACK AT THE POINT!



LIEUTENANT KORNELL LIKES YOU..... SO THE LESSONS ARE FREE.'



ALL RIGHT, MALONE!' YOU'RE NEXT... COME AND GET IT!

GEE!' I AIN'T TOUGH!' HONEST, I AIN'T!



NEXT MORNING!' LOOK, GANG.' HUTCH AND MALONE!' I THOUGHT THEY'D BE IN THE GUARD HOUSE.' LOOEY MUST BE YELLA!



ANYBODY THAT SAYS HE'S YELLA GETS A SOCK IN THE SNOOT.' THAT KOR-NELL'S A MAN'S MAN!' AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME TOO!



COMPANY.... ATTEN... SHUN!



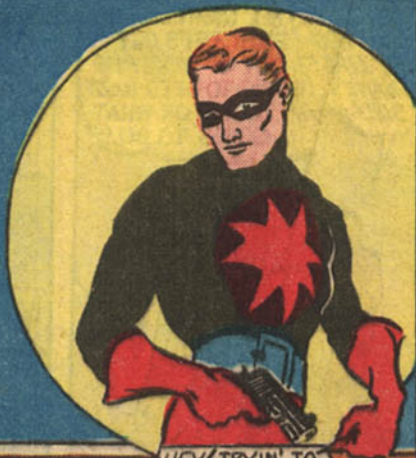
REMARKABLE DISCIPLINE AND MY CONGRATULATIONS, LIEUTENANT KORNELL.'

YOU CAN'T GO WRONG BY JOINING UP WITH THE THOUSANDS OF KEITH KORNELL FANS IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS!

THE FIREFLY



STOP!
PLEASE STOP!



HEY! TRYIN' TO
GET YOURSELF
KILLED!

DON'T LET
THOSE MEN
TAKE ME!
SAVE ME!



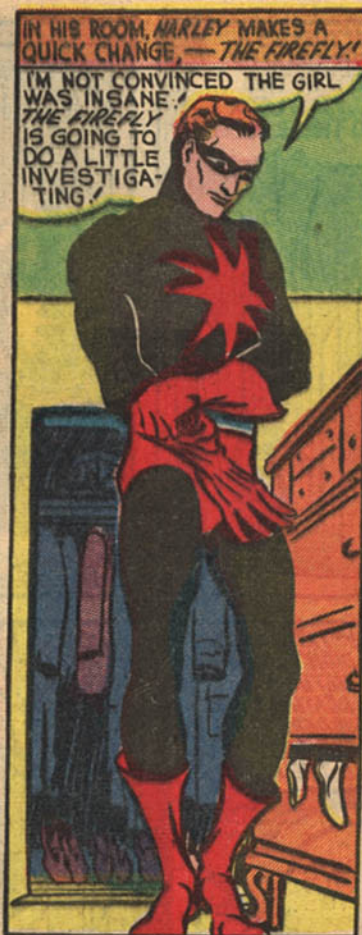
HERE THEY
COME! PLEASE,
PLEASE! I'M
NOT CRAZY!
BELIEVE
ME!

THE DAME'S AS LOONY
AS A BAT! SHE ESCAPED
FROM AN ASYLUM!
WE'RE HER KEEPERS!
HERE ARE OUR
CREDENTIALS!

NO, NO!
THEY'RE
LYING!



ONE NIGHT AS JOAN BURTON, REPORTER IS DRIVING HARLEY HUDSON HOME THE FIGURE OF A GIRL CATAPULTS ITSELF OUT ONTO THE ROAD DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE CAR!



AND INTO THE SANITARIUM THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW!



UGH! THERE'S A QUEER ODOR OF DEATH IN THIS HALL! I'LL LOOK INTO THESE ROOMS!



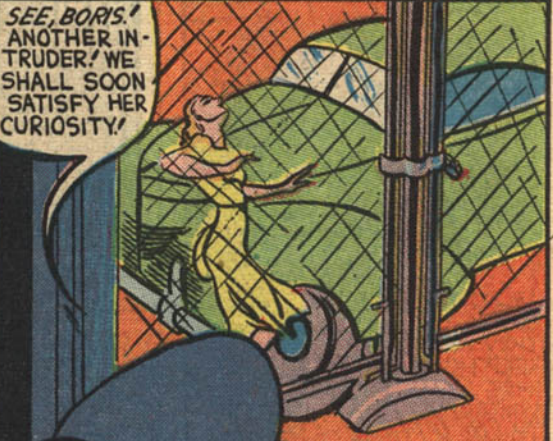
GOOD LORD! WHAT'S THIS? DEAD BODIES ALL AROUND—JUST LIKE A MORGUE!



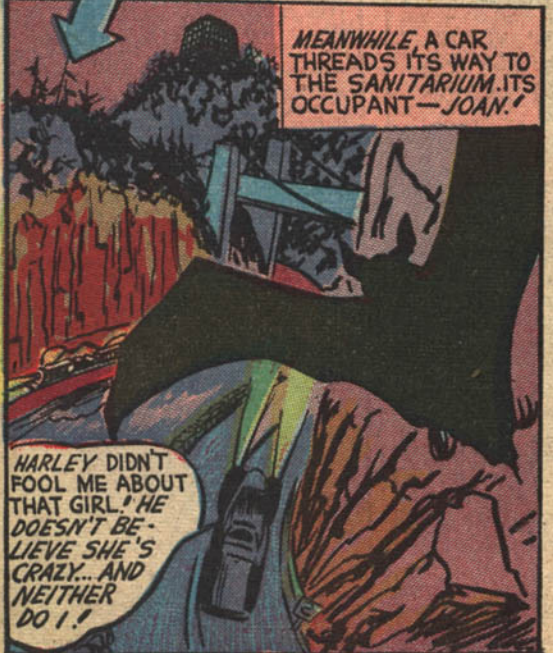
SAY! THIS CORPSE DIDN'T DIE A NATURAL DEATH. HE WAS MURDERED—AS WERE PROBABLY ALL THE REST!



SEE, BORIS! ANOTHER INTRUDER! WE SHALL SOON SATISFY HER CURIOSITY!



MEANWHILE A CAR THREADS ITS WAY TO THE SANITARIUM. ITS OCCUPANT—JOAN!



HARLEY DIDN'T FOOL ME ABOUT THAT GIRL! HE DOESN'T BELIEVE SHE'S CRAZY... AND NEITHER DO I!

THE ELECTRIC SWITCH, EH, PROFESSOR BULLET-HEAD? HEH, HEH!

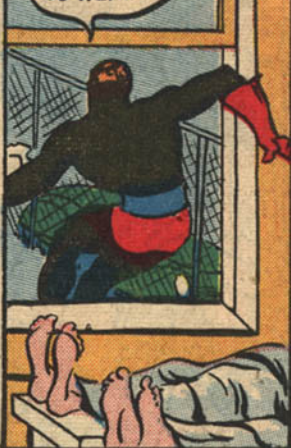


BUT THE **FIREFLY** ALSO SEES THE GIRL REPORTER!

GREAT CAESAR!
IT'S JOAN! SHE'S
TRYING TO CLIMB
THAT FENCE!



SHE'LL BE ELECTROCUTED!
I MUST GET
TO HER!

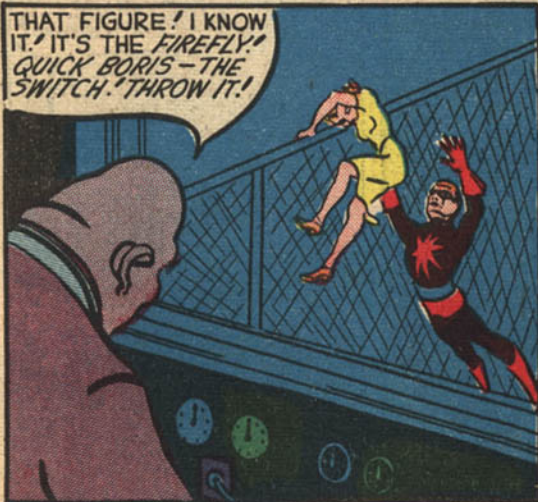


FIREFLY!
...WHAT?

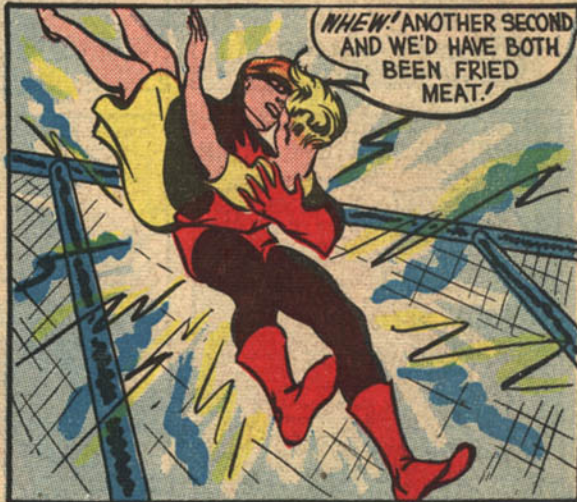
JOAN... JOAN! GET OFF
THAT FENCE! QUICK!



THAT FIGURE! I KNOW
IT! IT'S THE **FIREFLY**!
QUICK BORIS - THE
SWITCH! THROW IT!



WHEN! ANOTHER SECOND
AND WE'D HAVE BOTH
BEEN FRIED
MEAT!



A HAIL OF BULLETS IS DIRECTED AT THEM
FROM PROFESSOR BULLET-HEAD'S WINDOWS!

RUN FOR THE
SANITARIUM,
JOAN!



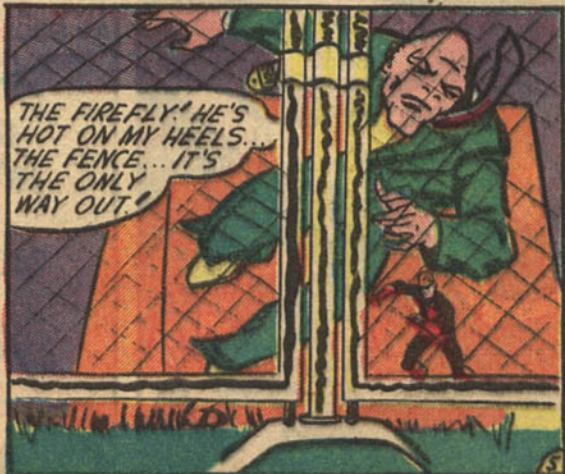
WE'RE SAFE FOR THE MOMENT,
ANYWAY! WE'LL GO UP
THAT STAIR CASE! IT'S
AS GOOD A PLACE AS
ANY!



OH, OH!
BUM
GUESS!

STAND
WHERE YOU
ARE, FIREFLY!





BULLET-HEAD HAD FORGOTTEN TO THROW OFF THE ELECTRIC CURRENT AND SO...



THE LEADER'S FINISHED JOAN! NOW WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIS STOOGES!



THE FIREFLY HERDS THEM ALL UPSTAIRS!



INTO THE BOOBY HATCH WITH YOU—UNTIL THE COPS LET YOU OUT!

AND THEN PROCEEDS TO THE CELLS IN WHICH THE SUPPOSED INMATES ARE HELD CAPTIVE



PLEASE LET US OUT! WE ARE NOT INSANE!

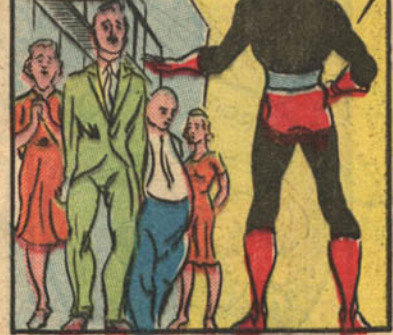
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT... AND YOU WON'T BE KEPT HERE ANY LONGER!

HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO FALL IN TO THIS CROOK'S HANDS!

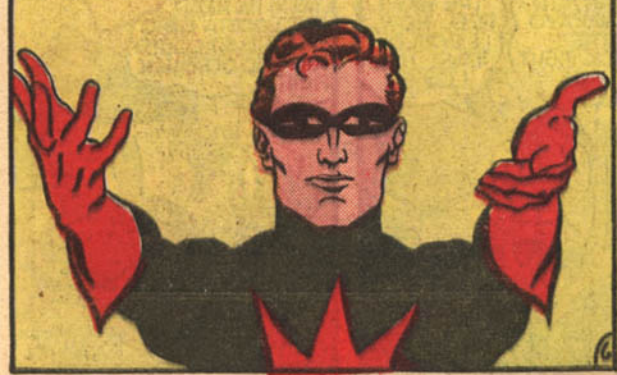


IT WAS MY BROTHER WHO HAD ME DECLARED MAD! THEN BULLET-HEAD CAME TO TAKE ME AWAY—AND I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE!

HMM! I GET IT NOW... YOU'RE ALL RICH AND YOUR HEIRS STOOD TO GAIN NICE PIECES OF CHANGE IF YOU WERE OUT OF THE WAY... SO BULLET-HEAD TOOK CARE OF THAT END!



YOU CAN ALL RETURN TO YOUR HOMES, NOW. BULLET-HEAD'S HENCHMEN WILL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF BY THE POLICE..... AS FOR YOUR OWN RASCALLY HEIRS, THEIR PUNISHMENT WILL BE ENTIRELY IN YOUR HANDS!



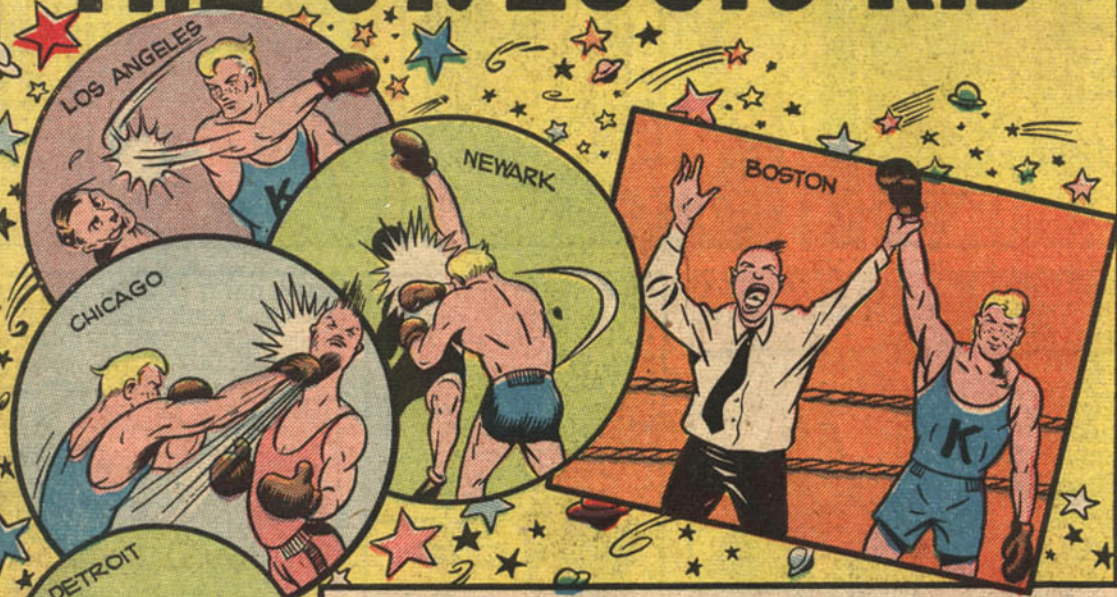
NEXT DAY!

HMM... (KIND) YES! I'VE GOT A GREAT STORY OF BUSY TODAY, EH JOAN? ABOUT A PHONY PSYCHIATRIST!

BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU, HARLEY? HA, HA!

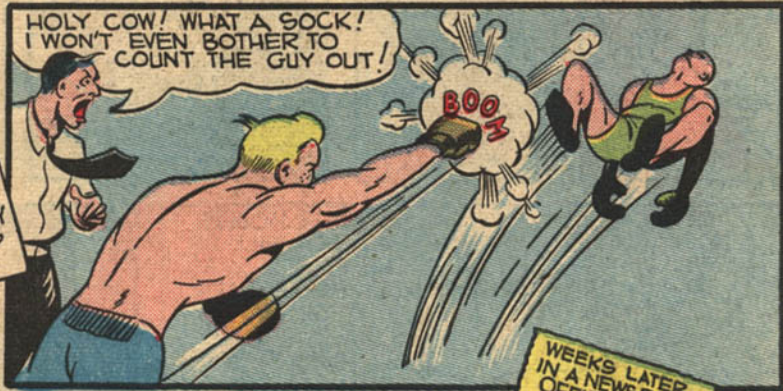
MORE EXCITING ADVENTURES OF THE FIREFLY APPEARS IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS!

THE ST. LOUIS KID



THE ST LOUIS KID'S RISE TO FISTIC HEIGHTS IS ALMOST METEORIC, AS HIS LIST OF KAYO VICTIMS IS CONSTANTLY SWELLED, UNTIL HE GAINS NATIONAL PROMINENCE!

Jim Striker



WEEKS LATER IN A NEWSPAPER OFFICE.



THE DAY OF THE FIGHT THE KID HAS JUST BEEN WEIGHED IN.

ST. LOUIS KID V

WELL, THAT'S THAT! NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS WAIT FER TONIGHT!

GEE, WINDY! MY FIRST MAIN EVENT FIGHT... I'M KINDA NERVOUS!

HEY! YOU'RE SHAKIN' LIKE A LEAF! WHAT YOU NEED IS SOME RELAXATION. G'WAN TAKE IN A SHOW OR SOMETHIN'!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, WINDY!

JUMPIN' JUPITER, MY OLD GIRL FRIEND! SO THIS IS THE KINDA CAREER SHE GAVE ME THE AIR FOR... A HOOPER AND IN CHEAP VAUDEVILLE!

FLOSSIE FOLLIE'S

ONE PLEASE!

YES SIR! AND HERE'S YOUR BINGO NUMBER. THERE'S A BIG PRIZE TONIGHT!

BINGO
TONITE
\$ 500.
IN GOLD
CASH

THERE'S FLOSSIE... THIRD FROM THE LEFT. THEY'RE DANCIN' OFF THE STAGE, NOW!

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WE'LL CALL TONIGHT'S LUCKY NUMBERS ... 423 AND 575

423!
THAT'S ME!

'N I GOT 575!
BINGO!

WELL, WELL! SO YOU'RE THE LUCKY PAIR. THAT'S \$100 A PIECE!

100 BERRIES, WOW!

BACKSTAGE, FLOSSIE SEES HER OLD BEAU.

GEE! THERE'S MY OLD FLAME!... I'M GONNA MAKE A PLAY FOR HIM AGAIN! HE'S A BIG SHOT FIGHTER, NOW!

AFTER THE SHOW -

WHY, HELLO!

HELLO! I... ER... WAS KINDA WAITIN' FER YOU. A HUNDRED BUCKS IS A LOT OF DOUGH, AND... ER... MAYBE I KIN TAKE YOU HOME!

HELLO, JIMMY DEAR... THIS IS QUITE A SURPRISE. I BEEN HEARIN' A LOT ABOUT YOU!

UH... ER... HIYA, FLOSSIE!



HOW ABOUT TAKIN' ME HOME JIMMY! WE GOT LOTS TO TALK ABOUT!

NOthin' DOIN'! I'M TAKIN' MISS... ER... THIS GIRL HOME!



YOU CHEAP LITTLE GOLD DIGGER! TRYIN' TO TAKE MY BOY FRIEND AWAY FROM ME!



HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH A THING!

YOU HAD NO RIGHT 'INSULTIN' HER, FLOSSIE. I ASKED HER SHE DIDN'T ASK ME... AND BESIDES, I AIN'T YOUR BOY FRIEND!



HMMMPH! GOIN' HIGH HAT ON ME, EH?



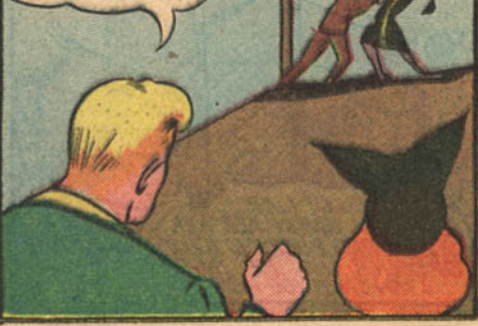
THAT'S THE DAME WHO WON THAT 100 BUCKS. I KIN USE THAT DOUGH!

OKAY SISTER! GIMME YOUR PURSE! QUICK!

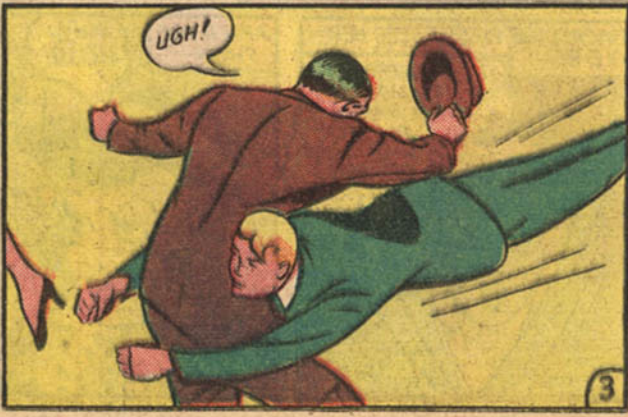


OH!... HELP!

HEY! SHE'S BEIN' ATTACKED BY A PURSE SNATCHER!



HELP!



UGH!



GOSH!
HE'S GOT
A GUN!

Oooo!

I'LL FIX YOU,
YOU DIRTY....!



BOOM

PULL
A GAT
ON ME,
WILL
YA?



POLICE!
POLICE!

THE GUY'S
A WILDMAN!
I'M GETTIN'
OUTTA HERE!



A ROBBERY!
AND
A DAME'S BEEN
SHOT! THEM TWO
GUYS RUNNIN'
AWAY! THEY
MUST BE THE
STICK-UP GUYS!



WHOA OR I'LL
BAT YOUR
EARS IN!

WHY YOU SAP!
HE'S UMPH...
GLUB!



RESIST AN
OFFICER OF THE
LAW, WILL YA?

OOMP!



OKAY, SISTER!
EVERYTHINGS
UNDER CONTROL!
YOU CALL AN
AMBULANCE
FOR THAT GIRL
FRIEND
O' YOURS!

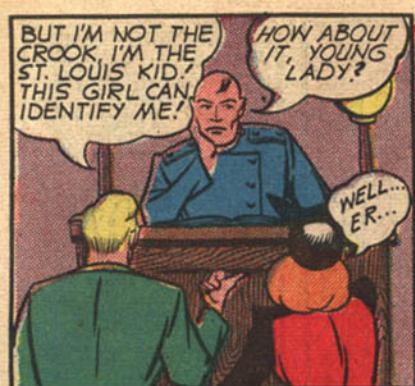
Y...YES!

Ooooo!

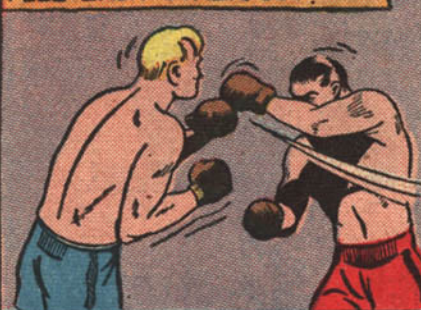


C'MON WITH ME!
I'LL NEED YOU
FOR A WITNESS
AGAINST
THE GUY!

BUT...
BUT...



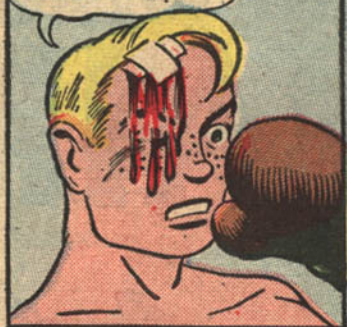
THE FIGHT BEGINS - BOTH FIGHTERS SPAR AROUND TO FEEL EACH OTHER OUT!



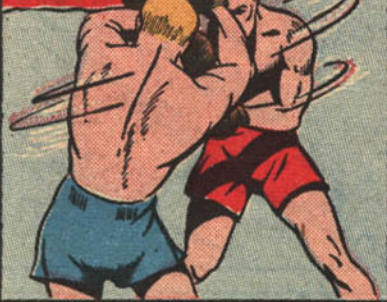
THEN - SUDDEN, DYNAMIC ACTION... TOE TO TOE, THEY SLUG IT OUT!



THIS BLOOD!... IT'S BLINDIN' ME!



UNABLE TO SEE, THE ST LOUIS KID TAKES A TERRIFIC SHELL-LACKING - BUT KEEPS GOING ON PURE INSTINCT!



THIS CUT... I GOT IT FROM A COPS NIGHTSTICK! TAPE IT UP, WILL YA, WINDY?



KID/ DON'T GO BACK!..IT AIN'T WORTH IT!

BUT THE BLOOD CONTINUES TO POUR, AND THE KID IS ALMOST COMPLETELY BLINDED!



GEE! THIS GUY MUST BE MADE OF IRON!

I CAN'T STAND IT! THE KID'LL KILL ME FOR THIS... BUT I'M THROWIN' IN THE TOWEL!



IN THE LOCKERS!

HEY! NO DAMES ARE ALLOWED HERE!



I MUST SPEAK TO THE KID! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

AW, FORGET IT! A GUY'S GOT TO LOSE SOMETIME! SAY! I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME YET! MINE'S JIM JENNINGS!



I'M MARY MALLOY! GEE! YOU'RE A GRAND GUY, JIM!

JUST THEN THE PROMOTER BURSTS IN...

THAT WAS A SWELL FIGHT, KID, AND YOU RATE A RETURN BOUT!



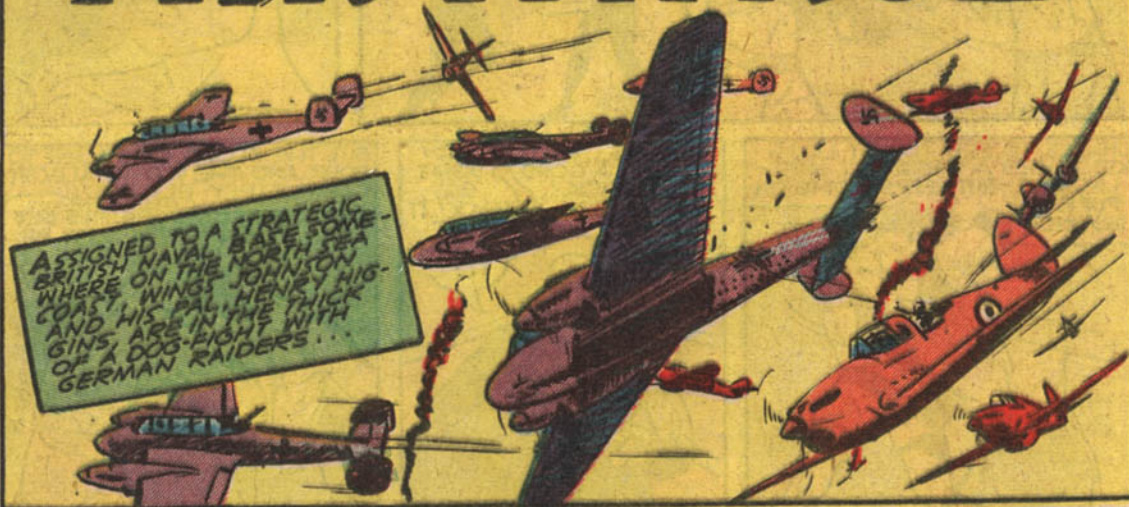
HOW ABOUT IT?

YOU BET - SEE MARY - YOU BROUGHT ME LUCK

BUT IS THIS REALLY A STROKE OF LUCK FOR THE ST LOUIS KID? WILL HE BE ABLE TO TAKE MC CORMICK?

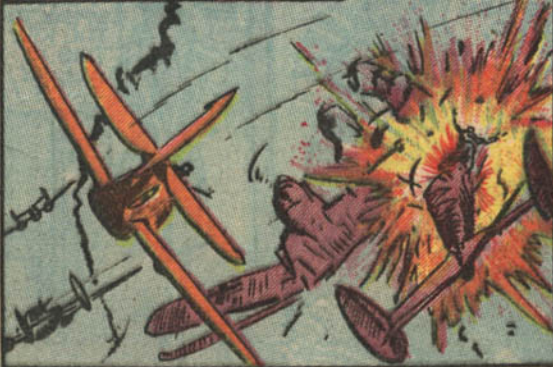
THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH WILL GIVE YOU THE ANSWERS!

WINGS JOHNSON OF THE AIR PATROL



ASSIGNED TO A STRATEGIC BRITISH NAVAL BASE SOMEWHERE ON THE NORTH SEA COAST, WINGS JOHNSON AND HIS PAL, HENRY HIGGINS, ARE IN THE THICK OF A DOG-FIGHT WITH GERMAN RAIDERS...

WINGS AND HENRY BLAST A GERMAN, ME 110, BOMBER TO ETERNITY!



BUT A BRITISH HURRICANE OPENS FIRE ON THEM!!!



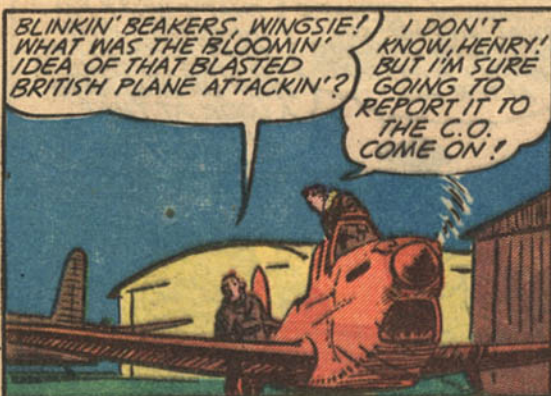
THERE'S THAT SAME HURRICANE THAT FIRED ON US YESTERDAY!



WELL, HENRY! THE RAID IS OVER! THE ENEMY SHIPS ARE ROUTED!



LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASE!



BLINKIN' BEAKERS, WINGSIE!
WHAT WAS THE BLOOMIN'
IDEA OF THAT BLASTED
BRITISH PLANE ATTACKIN'?

I DON'T
KNOW, HENRY!
BUT I'M SURE
GOING TO
REPORT IT TO
THE C.O.
COME ON!



THIS IS THE SECOND
TIME IN A ROW THAT
BRITISH SHIP BUTTED
INTO OUR FIGHT! AND
BOTH TIMES, THEY
FIRED ON US!

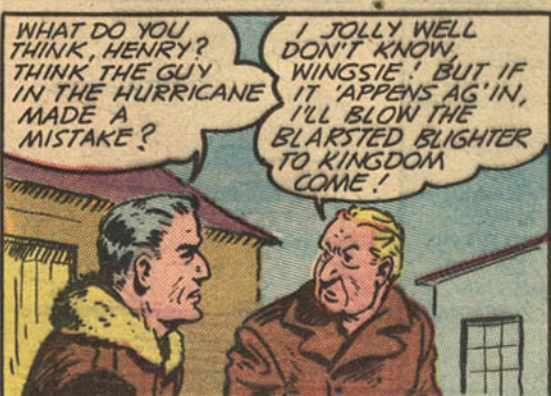


WELL JOHNSON, I TOLD YOU I
SUSPECTED A SPY WAS SOME-
WHERE ABOUT - AND TO KEEP
YOUR EYES OPEN. BUT I THINK
YOU ARE PROBABLY MISTAKEN
ABOUT THAT HURRICANE
FIRING ON YOU

I HOPE IT
DOESN'T
GET TO BE
A HABIT
WITH HIM.



I'M SURE IT WON'T
HAPPEN AGAIN, JOHNSON
IF IT DOES - WELL, THEN
WE KNOW SOMETHING
IS WRONG.



WHAT DO YOU
THINK, HENRY?
THINK THE GUY
IN THE HURRICANE
MADE A
MISTAKE?

I JOLLY WELL
DON'T KNOW,
WINGSIE! BUT IF
IT 'APPENS AG'IN,
I'LL BLOW THE
BLARSTED BLIGHTER
TO KINGDOM
COME!



LOOK,
WINGSIE!
THERE'S A
BRITISH
PLANE UP
THERE!

YEAH! AND
IT'S A HURRICANE
AT THAT! COME
ON! I'VE GOT A
HUNCH I'D LIKE
TO FOLLOW
THROUGH!



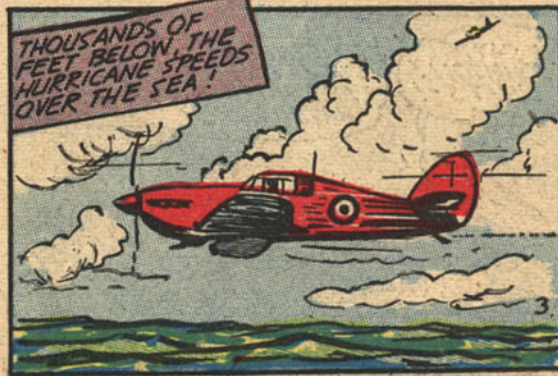
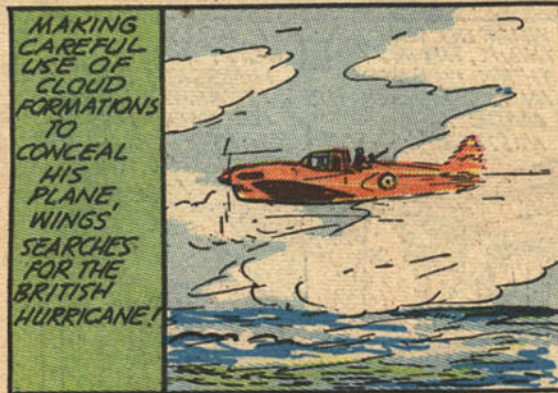
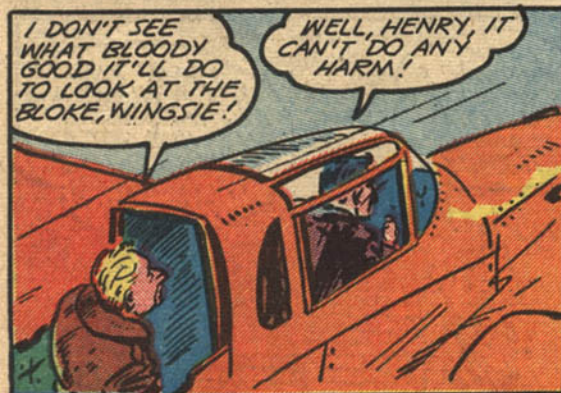
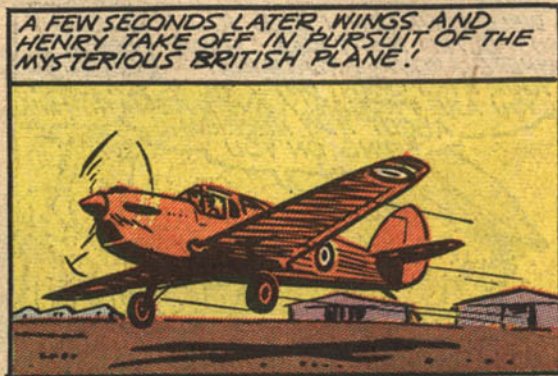
I SAY,
JOHNSON!
WHAT'S--!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY
TO BURST IN LIKE THIS,
SIR! BUT HAVE WE
ANY HURRICANES
BASED HERE?

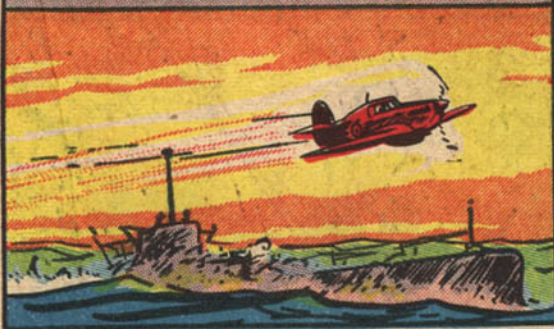


WHY, NO! THE
NEAREST BASE
IS SOME MILES
AWAY!

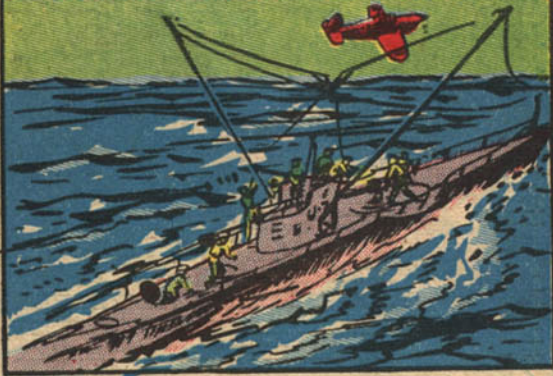
I THOUGHT SO! BUT A
'CANE JUST FLEW OVER.
I WONDER IF YOU'D
CHECK WITH THAT SQUAD-
RON YOU JUST MENTION-
ED AND ASK IF ONE OF
THEIR SHIPS IS
STILL UP!



SUDDENLY, OUT OF THE WATERS OF THE NORTH SEA - A GERMAN SUBMARINE!



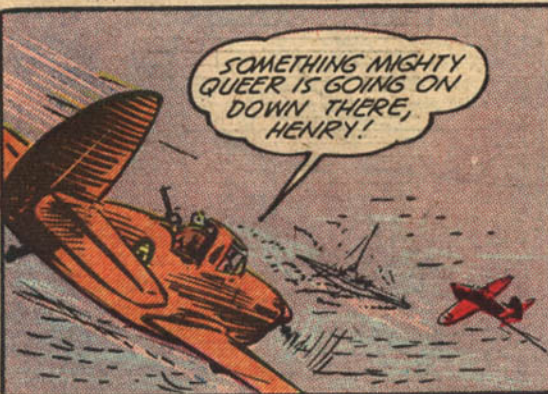
QUICKLY, IT HOISTS A STRANGE CONTRAPTION.



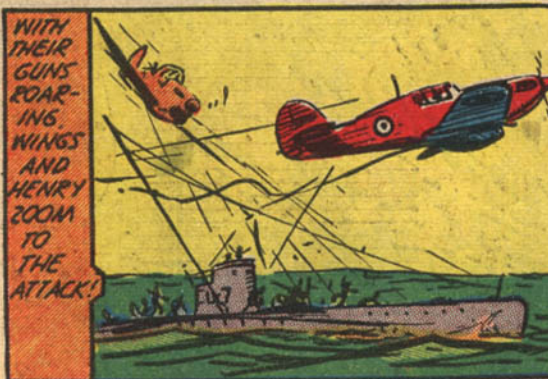
THE HURRICANE CIRCLES AS A GERMAN SEAMAN SIGNALS FROM THE CONNING TOWER! THEN, IT DROPS A LANDING HOOK!



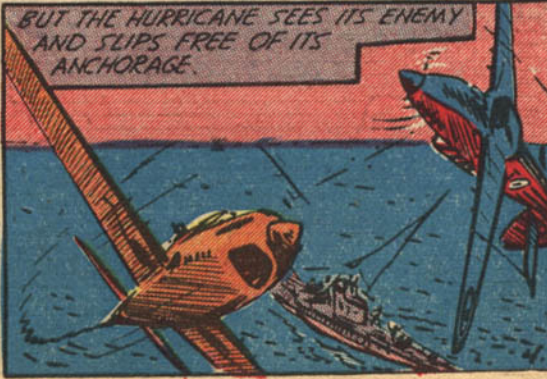
SOMETHING MIGHTY QUEER IS GOING ON DOWN THERE, HENRY!



PIP! PIP! BLOW ME BLOOMIN' EYEBALLS H'IF THAT HURRICANE AIN'T IN CAHOOTS WITH THAT SUB!



WITH THEIR GUNS ROARING, WINGS AND HENRY ZOOM TO THE ATTACK!

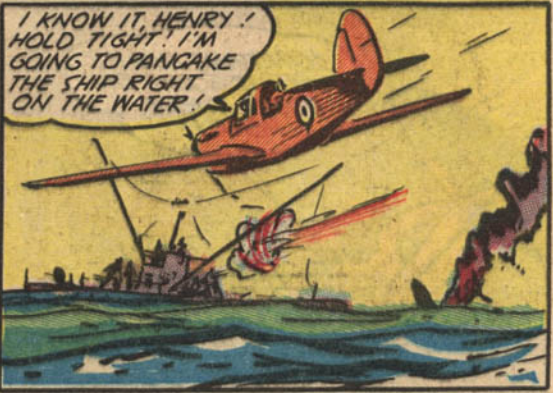
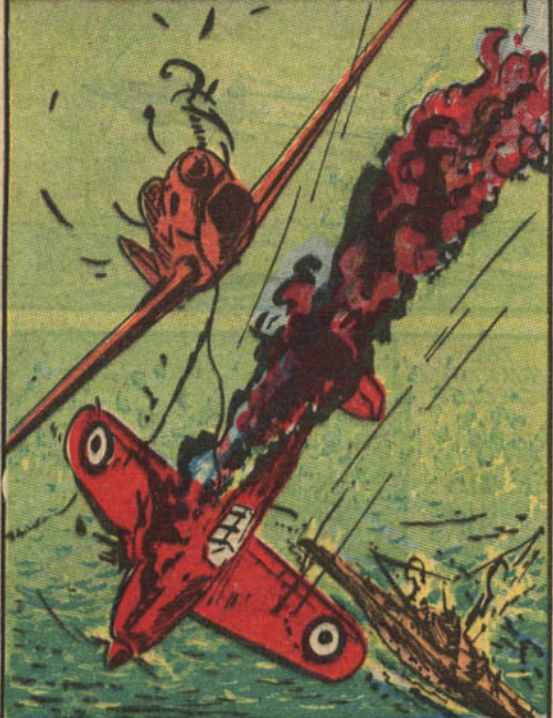


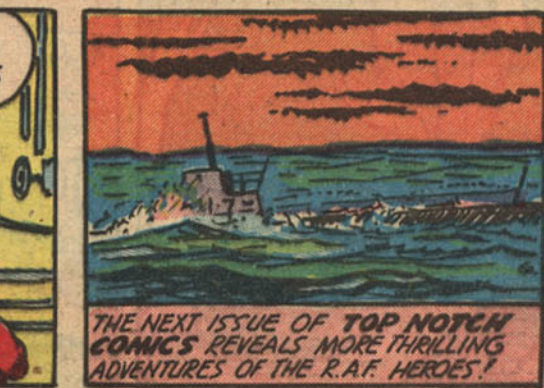
BUT THE HURRICANE SEES ITS ENEMY AND SLIPS FREE OF ITS ANCHORAGE.

TIMING HIS LOOP TO A FRACTION OF A SECOND, WINGS CATCHES THE HURRICANE FROM BEHIND!



THE SPY SHIP IS SET AFIRE, BUT THE CABLES AND LANDING HOOK SHATTER THE PROP OF JOHNSON'S SHIP.



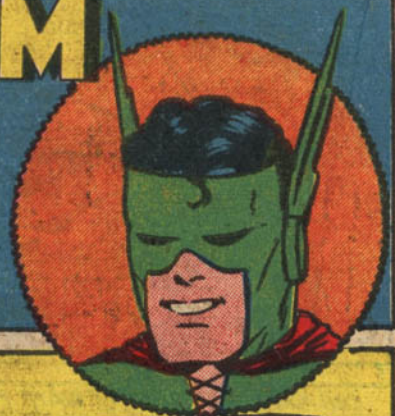


BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

BY BERNIE

A RUSH OF WIND - A SWIRL OF SMOKE - AND THERE STANDS BOB PHANTOM!



POLICE! COME QUICK!
MY HUSBAND... JOHN
WINTERS! HANGING FROM
THE CEILING! HE'S
DEAD... DEAD!



LOOKS LIKE
A CLEAR
CASE OF
SUICIDE!



WHILE AT THAT MOMENT
IN ANOTHER HOME
GREAT LORD! THE MASTER!
HE'S
DROWNED
HIMSELF!



AGAIN, THE POLICE ARE
SUMMONED
AND WHEN MR. GRAVES DIDN'T
COME DOWN FOR SO LONG A
TIME, NATURALLY I WAS
ALARMED!

HMM!... THESE
SUICIDES ARE
COMIN' THICK
AND FAST!



AND THEY AIN'T GOIN' TO DO MAYOR JONES ANY GOOD IN HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WINTERS AND GRAVES WERE HIS BIGGEST BOOSTERS!



IN THE HOME OF MAYOR JONES NEXT DAY!

CARTER, YOU'RE MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER - WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW! GRAVES AND WINTERS WERE YOUR BIGGEST BOOSTERS!



AND WITH ELECTION DAY SO CLOSE... WELL, I'M WORRIED!

YOUR EVENING PAPER, SIR

BRING IT IN, JARVIS!



GREAT CAESAR... CARTER! LOOK AT THIS ITEM IN WALT WHITNEY'S COLUMN!



on Broadway
By Walt Whitney
NOTE TO MAYOR JONES - THE DEATHS OF YOUR POLITICAL BACKERS ARE WELL WORTH INVESTIGATING THAT SUTCHES THEY SNEEL LIKE HORSE TO ME..... AND I DON'T BEEN FISH!
I IN FEBRUARY, 1946, a ...
... ..

WALT WHITNEY LEAVES HIS OFFICE...

HA, HA! I'M GOING DOWN TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND SEE IF MY COLUMN GOT A RISE OUT OF THE CHIEF!



KEEP YOUR LIP BUTTONED AND WALK LIKE NOthin'S HAPPENIN' SEE!

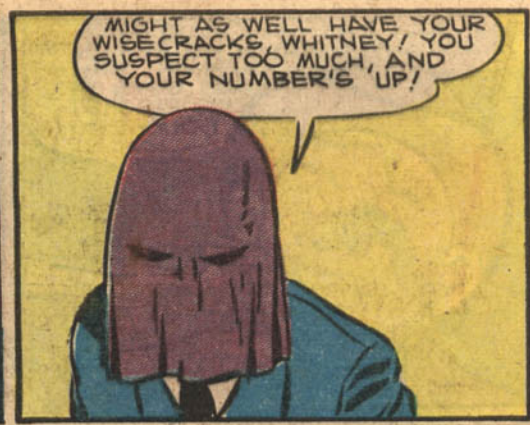


HEY...! WHAT...!



INSIDE SNOOP!

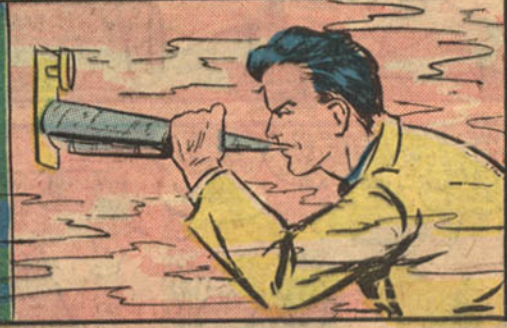
TAKING ME FOR A RIDE, HUH? I GUESS MY COLUMN GOT A RISE OUT OF SOMEONE ELSE!



BOY, THE GAS IS GETTING THICK (COUGH) GOTTA WORK FAST! THIS NEWSPAPER... I'LL ROLL IT UP LIKE A FUNNEL!



WALT PUTS ONE END OF THE FUNNEL TO THE KEYHOLE, THE OTHER END TO HIS MOUTH, AND SUCKS IN THE FRESH AIR FROM OUTSIDE!



ALL RIGHT BOYS! THAT NEWSPAPER GUY'S DEAD BY NOW! YOU BOYS GO IN AND GET RID OF THE CORPSE!



Y...YOU.PH.. PHANTOM!

GREETINGS GENTS!

WHO... WHA...



TSK TSK, MY APPEARANCE SEEMS TO HAVE UPSET YOU!

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT'LL UPSET YOU EVEN MORE!



AND I'VE GOT A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU TOO--UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO WAG YOUR TONGUE!

NO... NO! DON'T HIT ME! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW!

NOW YOU'RE GETTING SMART, MOUSE. ALL RIGHT! SHOOT!

HERE!... WHAT'S THIS! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY WALKING IN ON ME THIS WAY!

LATER, AT THE HOME OF ANOTHER PROMINENT MAYOR JONES' BOOSTER.

WE JUST CAME IN TO HELP YOU SHAVE, DIDN'T WE?

SURE! GIMME THAT RAZOR!

HELLO BOYS! LOOKS LIKE I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!

YOU!

I'LL FIX YOUR WAGON, YOU DIRTY...!

YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A WAGON FIX-ER, ARE YOU?

HALP!

HERE! LET ME SHOW YOU HOW!

I'LL SHOW YOU BOYS HOW TO USE YOUR HEADS!

B... BUT... WHO... WHY...

BROTHER! DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! JUST BE GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE! BETTER CALL THE COPS! THOSE KILLERS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE READY FOR THE CLEANERS!

UGH!

OOOMPH!



A GRAND NECKTIE PARTY

by
EUGENE CUNNINGHAM

IN Las Vegas, New Mexico, there are still copies of a famous poster dated March 24, 1882. Whatever the notice may lack in elegance of diction, is balanced by clearness and pointedness. . .

NOTICE

To Thieves, Thugs, Fakirs and Bunco Steerers

AMONG WHOM ARE

J. J. Harlin alias "Off Wheeler," Sawdust Charlie, Wm. Hedges, Billy the Kid, Billy Mullin, Little Jack, the Cutter, Pock Marked Kid and about 20 others.

If found within the limits of this city after 10 p.m. this night, you will be invited to attend a grand necktie party

The expense of which will be borne by

100 Substantial Citizens

NOTHING ever published in Las Vegas had the MOVING effect of this poster. The hard cases listed—or referred to—moved out of Vegas with promptness and quietness, using only part of the time allowed.

The Billy the Kid mentioned was not the Lincoln County outlaw. He had been dead more than eight months. This was some smaller caliber gun, misbranded.



HERE IT IS

THE NEW
NO. 2 ISSUE
OF YOUR
FAVORITE MAGAZINE

STARRING THE G-MAN EXTRAORDINARY
AND THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN



SHIELD- WIZARD

10c

No. 2

ALL BRAND NEW ** SMASHING ACTION



LOOK
FOR
Tommy
THE
SUPER
BOY!

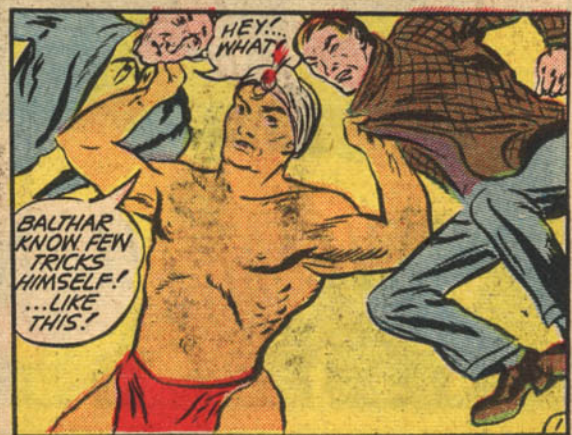
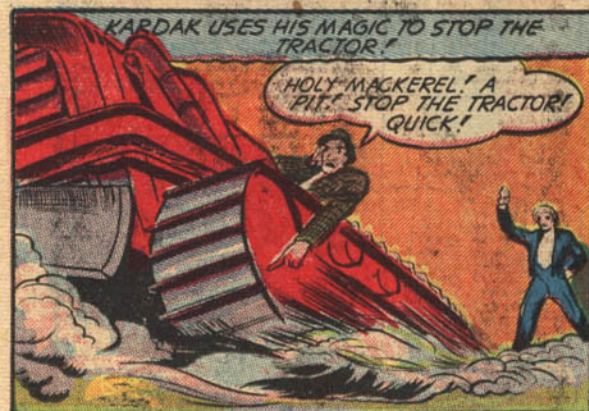
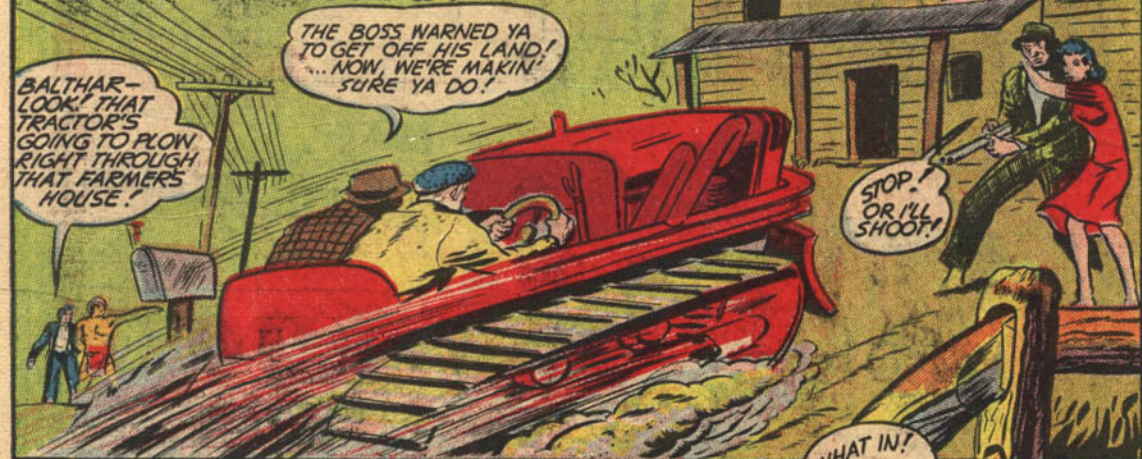
ALL
NEW!
ALL

DIFFERENT

ON SALE AT ALL NEWSTANDS

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN



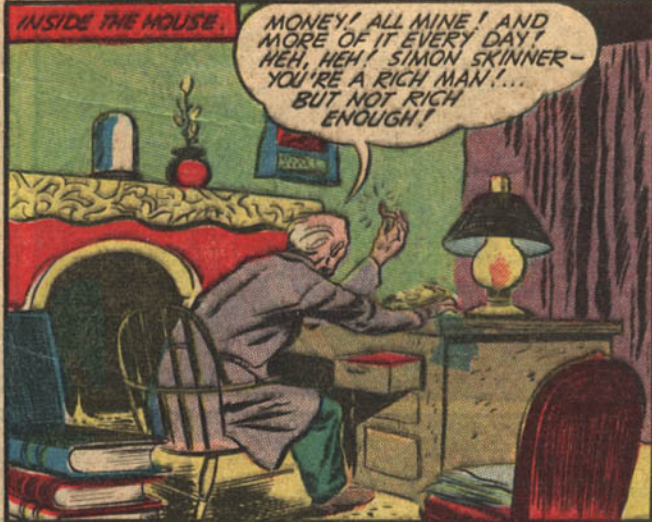




THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT! DON'T BE SURPRISED AT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS!

HO, HO! MASTER IS USE MAGIC!... WE HAVE MUCH FUN, NOW!

BUT...



INSIDE THE MOUSE.

MONEY! ALL MINE! AND MORE OF IT EVERY DAY! HEH, HEH! SIMON SKINNER - YOU'RE A RICH MAN!... BUT NOT RICH ENOUGH!



WHAT'S THAT!... SOUNDED LIKE A KNOCK AT MY DOOR!



MAYBE A PROWLER... OR A ROBBER! EVERYBODY TRIES TO ROB SIMON SKINNER, EH? I'LL FIX 'EM!



INVISIBLE FIGURES SLIP BEHIND SKINNER THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR.

I'LL SHOOT 'EM DOWN LIKE DOGS... THAT'S FUNNY! I DON'T SEE ANYBODY! I MUST HAVE BEEN MIS-TAKEN!



SKINNER RETURNS TO HIS COUNTING ROOM ACCOMPANIED BY HIS UNSEEN GUESTS.

LET ME SEE NOW... WHERE WAS I? AH... YES! \$ 200... 202 203...

HERE'S WHERE MR. SKINNER GETS LESSON NUMBER ONE!



KARDAK WAVES HIS HAND, AND -

AWKWARD! GLUP! WORMS!

WE SHALL BE YOUR MONEY WHEN WE VISIT YOU IN YOUR GRAVE, MR. SKINNER!

MY MONEY! MY PRETTY MONEY!... AM I GOING NUTS?

I FEEL QUEER... AS
THOUGH SOMEONE WERE
WATCHIN' ME... WH...
WHAT'S THAT?



SURROUNDED BY A WEIRD
LIGHT, THE HEAD OF KAR-
DAK APPEARS IN THE SHA-
DOWY ROOM!



WH...WHO...
ARE YOU?
WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

I AM THE SPIRIT OF
ALL THE MISERY
YOU HAVE CAUSED
YOUR
FELLOW
MEN! I WANT
WHAT BELONGS
TO THEM!



IT'S MY MORTGAGES AND DEEDS
YOU'RE AFTER! YOU'LL NEVER
GET 'EM... WHAT..WHAT'S
THAT DRIPPING FROM
MY STRONG BOX?



KARDAK'S GRIM JEST CONTINUES--SUDDEN
BURSTS OF LIGHT, AND BALTHAR
AND JUDY APPEAR IN DIFFERENT GUISES!



KEEP
AWAY,
I TELL
YOU!



THE VISIONS VANISH AS SUDDENLY AS THEY APPEARED



MON KARDAK HIMSELF VANISHES!...



THE ROOM'S EMPTY! MY MONEY... MY STRONG BOX! THEY'RE INTACT! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION!... IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN!

OUTSIDE...



HO, HO! WE NEVER LAUGH SO MUCH!

I ALMOST DIED AT THE EXPRESSION ON THE OLD MISER'S FACE!

BUT WHAT FRIGHTENED HIM SO, KARDAK? I DIDN'T SEE ANY ANGELS OR DEVILS THAT SKINNER WAS YELLING ABOUT!



SIMPLE HYPNOSIS, JUDY!

LATER...



OH, MIKE! HERE COMES MR. SKINNER! MAYBE IF WE TALKED TO HIM, HE'D LET US STAY ANOTHER MONTH!

NO, KATE! HIS HEART IS MADE OF STONE!



WHO SAID YOU HAD TO GET OUT? GET BACK IN THERE AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RENT!

WHA... WHAT IS THIS... A... A JOKE?

SKINNER GOES TO THE GROCERY STORE

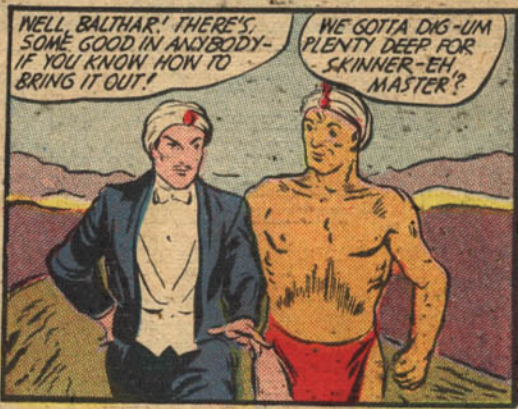


ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T PAY YOUR NOTE THIS MONTH! TAKE MY PLACE AND BE HANGED!



DON'T TALK TO ME, THAT WAY, DRAT YOU! I CAME TO TELL YOU, I'M GVIN' YOU ANOTHER YEAR TO PAY... TWO YEARS... MAYBE THREE... IN FACT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY AT ALL!

ULP!



WELL, BALTHAR! THERE'S SOME GOOD IN ANYBODY- IF YOU KNOW HOW TO BRING IT OUT!

WE GOTTA DIG-UM PLENTY DEEP FOR SKINNER-EH, MASTER?

KARDAK AND HIS MAGIC OF GOOD OVERCOMES EVIL IN EVERY ISSUE OF TOP NOTCH COMICS